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DIFFICILES  
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By Sir Matthew Hale.



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*DIFFICILES NVGÆ:*  
OR,  
**OBSERVATIONS**

Touching the  
**TORRICELLIAN Experiment,**

AND

The various Solutions of the same,  
especially touching the Weight and  
Elasticity of the AIR.



LONDON,

Printed by *W. Godbid*, for *William Shroombury*,  
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THE  
OBSERVATIONS

Touching the  
CRITICAL PERIOD OF  
AND  
the various symptoms of the disease  
commonly attending the  
Birth of the Fetus



LONDON  
Printed by W. G. Smith, in the Strand  
at the Sign of the Sun and Gun  
MDCCLXXII



*Ex libris Johis Parkes*  
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THE  
PUBLISHER  
TO THE  
READER.

**T**HE Title of this Book gives thee little incouragement to buy or to read it, and it was purposely so given. If it performs but as much as the Title promiseth, thou art not deceived; if more, thou art advantaged.

The Subject is seemingly trivial, and suitable to the Title; yet it hath exercised the Wits and Pens of many Learned men, and makes way

## The Publisher

to Natural Discoveries, and consequences of greater importance; at the worst it may be an innocent Diverisement, and possibly delightful to those that are pleased with Speculations and Experiments of this nature.

The Experiments therein are some new, some vulgar and common, and some borrowed from those Excellent persons, whom though the Author highly honours for their Learning and Industry, yet in some things dissents from them in their Solutions and Conclusions from those Experiments that they have most ingeniously found out and delivered.

The Author pretends not to an equality of Learning to those from whom he thus dissents, much less to Infallibility; there may possibly hap-  
pen



## To the Reader.

pen want of Exactness in his Tryals, there may be imperfect and mistaken Computations. The Diagrams though but few, yet rude. The Resolutions and Conclusions may either be imperfect, or not so clearly or evidently expressed, and inferred, or deduced.

But he that considers the intricacy of this Inquiry, the various complications of Causes, and Effects, and Appearances that occur therein, the great difficulty of arriving to exactness in the Experiments themselves, will rectify or easily excuse such mistakes or inadvertencies, if any such occur in these Papers.

If the Inquiry hath not attained its full complement and perfection in these Papers, yet the Author hath obtained his End therein, namely, to give hints and occasions to Ingenious per-

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persons to make farther and better Discoveries, and to rectifie (if there be occasion) the mistakes of these or other mens Solutions; and to give a little warning to men of Wit and Parts, not to be too hasty or positive in exterminating the Aristotelian Philosophy, and entertaining new hypotheses, 'till they have fully and maturely considered, and well looked about them. The Author's Name is not prefixed, for it would be of small advantage or use: and he is thereby the fitter to bear the correction of his Errors, and to retract them with more ease, and less observation, if any such shall occur to his discovery or notice; and therefore hath left the Book it self, and the matters therein delivered, to bear their own burthen, and to stand or fall as they deserve.


O B S E R



*Observations touching the Torricellian Experiment, and the Weight and Spring of Air.*

CHAP. I.

*The Introduction, containing the order of the ensuing Enquiries.*

 Among the many Experiments of latter Ages, there hath been invented that Engine that commonly goes under the name of the *Torricellian Experiment*, which is but this: A Glass-Tube of three foot or more long, closed at one end, and then filled with Mercury or Quick-silver, and then the open end stopped with the finger, and inverted into a vessel of restagnant Mercury; and when the end is sufficiently immersed, then the finger nimbly removed, so that

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## Observations touching the

no Air get in, the Mercury will subside in the Tube to the height of 29 Inches, and half an inch, or near thereabout; but infallibly between 27 and 30 Inches, leaving the residue of the upper end of the Tube emptied of the Mercury.

This Experiment, and the solution of it, hath exercised the Tryals and Wits, and Invention of very many excellent Persons, such as were *Helmont*, *Gassendus*, *Kircherus*, *Shottus*, *Dr. Carleton*, *Mr. Hobbs*, *Mr. Sinclere*, *Monfieur Pecquet*, *Monfieur Pascall*, *Magnanus*, *Mr. Boyle*, *Linus*, *Honeratus*, *Fabri*, and divers others; who though men of great Learning and Industry, have run into several Parties, and given Solutions, and raised Conclusions from it, extremely contradictory the one to the other.

And although this seems but a very trifling and ludicrous Experiment, yet almost all dissenting Parties have made it to suffragate to their several pre-concerned Sentiments, and Perswasions, and that in Philosophical Points of as great moment and importance per-chance



*Torricellian Experiment.*

3

chance as most be to be found in natural Inquiries. Some from hence confirm themselves in their Perswasion, that there are both interspersed and coacervated Vacuities or Spaces, empty of any corporeal substance in the Universe; others again as confidently concluding the untruth of that Opinion, and that from the same Experiment. Others again from hence confirming themselves in the *Cartesian* supposition of his *Tria Principia*, and especially of that *Materia Subtilis*, which cannot be excluded from pervading the most contumacious and solid body: Others attributing the same Power to the more subtil parts of the aerial consistence; some from hence concluding an actual pressure and gravitation of the Air upon all subjected bodies, and that thereby the Mercury is sustained by way of Pressure, and Trusion, and Counterpoys, and have substituted thereupon as an undoubted *Hypothesis*, a world of admirable consequences in natural appearances, not only in the greater World, but also in the lesser World the humane  
B 2 structure.

4      **Observations touching the**  
structure. Others again have hereupon  
maintained their opinion of Attraction  
as the necessary effect of Tension, and  
resolve this suspension of the Mercury  
unto the force of attraction and suction,  
occasioned by that Catholick Law of  
Nature for preservation of the conti-  
nuity of the Universe, and all its parts,  
and the *Fuga Vacui*, and are no way satis-  
fied with that confidence that decryes  
it.

From this diversity of Judgments of  
Learned men, we may learn, first, how  
little it is in natural Effects that we re-  
ally and truly know and understand,  
when so trivial an Experiment that we  
have so easie an access unto, and handle  
with our hands, and perceive by our  
sight its motion, which yet so gravels, or  
at least divides men of great Parts, Judg-  
ment, Learning and Experience. 2.  
How strangely partial men are to those  
Sentiments that they have once enter-  
tained, and perchance taken much pains  
to mould and fashion, or have even  
publickly engaged unto or for, whereby  
it comes to pass that men are not wil-  
ling

*Torricellian Experiment.*

5

ling impartially to consider what makes against their opinion, and frame a thousand imaginations to evade the strength of the opposite reasons, and to construe all appearances (as melancholick persons do the sound of Bells) to speak what they fancy; And possibly all the opposite Opimators in this business are under the like partiality and unindifferency.

There is a great odds between a Matter propounded only as an Hypothesis, and propounded as a real truth. In the former there is nothing more required than a true understanding of the *Phænomena*, and a ready Wit to contrive some Model, and to dress it up so handsomely, that it may answer the *Phænomena*, and to fit up such expedients as may meet with and stop the Leaks that otherwise would happen in the Hypothesis: And such a man tells us not so much what the truth of Nature is, as what he thinks he could have made it, if he had had the handling of it; such may be the Systemes of *Ptolomy*, *Copernicus*, and *Tycho Brahe*,  
B 3      which

6 Observations touching the

which cannot be possibly all true, though possibly they may be all false. And yet every of them is so fitted and accommodated by the Wit, Invention, and Industry of the Authors, that they solve the *Phænomena* very near equally: And thus if I remember aright *des Cartes* fairly propounds his *tria Principia*'s, and some other parts of his New Philosophy.

But to propound a thing as really a truth in Nature, is another kind of business, and requires not so much a dextrous Invention, but an impartial inspection into the things themselves, and examination how all things stand one with another, as we truly find them, and not as we mind to make them: For the Laws of Nature are stable, and settled, and regular, and not like the Laws of Men, or the fashions of our Cloaths, mutable, according to new Modes, or devices of Fancy.

Therefore the bare accommodation of Hypotheses to the Solution of the most obvious *Phænomena* is not always the measure of its truth, for that may be



*Torricellian Experiment.* 7

be but the product of Invention and Wit. For it is apparent, that though it is impossible that all the varying Solutions of this trifling Experiment can be all true, yet they are all so dressed and pieced up, that they do solve the most obvious *Phænomena* in this Experiment, well near equally each with other.

But on the other side, if any *Phænomena* happen cleerly either in this or any other instance, that do cross and thwart that which is taken up as a necessary *postulatum* in any of these Solutions; it is if not an undeniable, yet a great and possibly a clear demonstration, that the Hypothesis its self is false, and ill Founded, especially if it be the great *Basis* upon which such Hypothesis is bottomed and built.

And if the foundation of a Hypothesis, or the general *postulatum* upon which it is bottomed, be false, or only imaginary, although the Inferences and Conclusions made upon such a *Basis* be deduced with all the fineness and subtilty imaginable, and such (as were the *postulatum* it self true, upon which they are bot-

# 8 Observations touching the

tomed) would be as necessary and consequential, as the Demonstrations of *Euclide*, yet the whole fabrique will fail when it comes to tryal, and become like the Astrological Predictions Calculated with Art enough upon a false Ephemerides.

I that come after the Labours and Scrutinies of so many Excellent Men that have gone before me upon this Subject, cannot promise my self or others that I shall say much in this Matter that hath not been said before; and the necessity of a free Discourse requires that I should take in somewhat of other mens Labours. But I shall avoid, as much as I can, the imputation of a Plagiary, by mentioning the Authors as I have occasion: But yet, though somewhat that I shall say hath been said before, especially by *Linus*, and *Fabri*, yet somewhat will be new, although the most I shall do herein will be to make the Method and manner of Explication of it as much my own as I can, which I shall do in this order.

First, I shall explain some Termes which

*Torricellian Experiment.* 9

which I shall have occasion to use, that so I may write intelligibly according to that sense I gave my words; though it may be possibly not according to the sense wherein others have used them.

Secondly, as preliminary to what I shall say touching this Experiment, I shall set down some Statical Observations, that may be useful to me upon this inquiry, not that I shall ingage myself in the whole Theory of Statical Principles and conclusions; this hath been done already by those worthy Persons that have *ex professo* handled this Subject, as *Archimedes*, *Steving*, *Mr. Boyle*, and others; but only shall glean up some general Observations therein necessary to this inquiry.

Thirdly, I shall set down what it is not, that may be supposed in the space derelict by the Mercury, namely, it is not Nothing, nor Ayre, nor *Æther*, nor any Body that comes from without.

Fourthly, I shall set down what I think it is that possesseth the place derelict by the Mercury.

Fifthly, I shall set down what I think  
is



10 **Observations touching the**

is not the cause that suspends the Cylinder of Mercury, in the Tube to that Altitude of 29 Inches, or thereabouts; namely, not the Gravitation or pressure of the impending Ayr, nor its Elasticity.

Sixth, I shall set down what I think is the cause, that suspends the column of Mercury from subsiding in the Tube below Twenty nine Inches, or thereabouts.

Seventhly, I shall set down those objections, that seem of the greatest force against the last supposition.

Eighthly, I shall take a particular examination of some other Experiments, as touching the cohesion of Polished Marbles, and the *Magdeburgh* Hemisphere, and the rising of Water in the common Pumps.

And this Order I shall as near as I can observe in the ensuing Chapters.

## CHAP. II.

*The Explication of some Terms, that may be of use in the following Inquiry.*

**F**irst, I shall observe the difference between the specifical or intrinsique Weight of a heavy Body, and the extrinsique Weight or *pondus molis*.

For instance, a pound of Mercury, and a hundred pound of Mercury, have the same intrinsique Weight, but yet not the same extrinsique Weight: A pound of Water and a pound of Mercury have the same extrinsique Weight, for each quantity weighs but a pound, but they have not the same intrinsique Weight, for quantity for quantity, Mercury is heavier then Water.

Those Bodies are said to have the same specifical or intrinsique Weight, when the same bulk or quantity counterpoiseth equally the other; and those Bodies are said to differ in intrinsique Weight, where a greater quantity of the one is required to Equiponderate a  
less

12 **O**bservations touching the

less quantity of the other ; as for instance, a Cylinder of Mercury, of an Inch long, and half an Inch Diameter, counterpoiseth a Cylinder of Water of the same Diameter and 13 Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 14 Inches long, or thereabouts. But although a Body specifically or intrinsically lighter than another, may in some cases have the advantage in point of speed in motion of a Body of equal extrinsical Weight, because it takes up less room, and so meets with less resistance in the *medium*, yet upon the Scale they equally counterpoise each other.

But again, there is this difference between them ; a Body of a greater intrinsique or specifical Gravity of an equal extrinsique Weight, with a Body of less intrinsique weight, will sometimes equally press upon a Fluid Body, upon its Superficies, but will press more than the lighter, when both have the advantage to get below the Superficies ; for instance,

Take a pound of Lead, and a pound of Wood, whether lighter or heavier than a quantity of Water equal to it, lay



*Torricellian Experiment.* 13

lay them each upon a peece of Cork that will support them in the Water; the pound of Lead, and the pound of Cork will both swim upon the Water.

But if the Cork be taken away, the Led will sink, and the Wood will swim if lighter than a like quantity of Water, and if heavier than the like quantity it will sink, but not so fast as the Led.

2. There is a difference between an intrinsique Weight, and an accidental Weight, which may be various; as for instance:

In respect of the position of the one and the other: Water and Water are both intrinsically of the same Weight, yet if Water be in a Tube, open at both ends, and be stopt with the Finger at the lower end, and then when contiguous to the Water in a Vessel, the lower end it is opened, all the Water in the Tube will subside to an equal Superficies with the Water in the Vessel, because its higher position gives it an accidental Weight more than that in the Vessel.

So again, Ayr and Ayr have the same Weight;

14 Observations touching the

Weight, though it be hardly measurable; but if Ayr be compressed as in a Wind-gun, it gains an accidental Gravity by its Compression of parts more than the common Ayr.

3. There is a difference in Terms between Gravitation, and pressure of heavy Bodies; for instance, A Tube stopt at the upper end, and driven down in a Vessel of Water forcibly, the pressure of the Water upon the Ayr in the Tube, will contract the Ayr as much as it can (suppose it an Inch) and the rest of the Ayr in the Tube will press upon the Water, because it will not yield more to the Water; this is properly Pressure in the Ayr upon the Water, and of the Water upwards upon the Ayr; yet neither are properly Gravitation, though possibly, I may in some passages use the words promiscuously.

4. There is a difference between Gravitation *ad motum*, which I call sometime sensible or perceptible Gravitation, and Gravitation *ad pondus*, which I sometimes call real or insensible, or Physical Gravitation: For instance,

If

If a cubical Vessel of Water contain 56 pound weight of Water, and a piece of Cork, or parcel of Oyl of two pound weight be placed upon the top of the Water, it will not sensibly gravitate, but will be born up by the upper Superficies of the Water, whereunto the lower Superficies of the Cork or Oyl will be contiguous, because being specifically or intrinsically lighter than Water, it is sustained by it, and makes no motion in the subjected Water.

(Fig. 1.) But yet it is plain that in concretion with the water, the whole weighs 58 pound, whereas before the water alone weighed but 56 pound; so that here is a gravitation *ad pondus* added hereunto *in concreto* to the water. But let us suppose that the Vessel *A, B, C, D*, be filled with water unto the superficies *C, D*, and the tube *E*, open at both ends be immerfed into the water, and then a quantity of oyl, that is lighter specifically than water, be poured upon the superficies of the water; this will raise the water into the tube *E*, above the common superficies of the water, to such



16 **Observations touching the**

such a proportion of height in the Tube as will countervail the weight of a like Cylinder of Oyl, which will be somewhat near to the superficies of the Oyl, because the water at *G*, is not equally pressed with the rest of the superficies of the water by the incumbent Oyl. The disparity of the pressure causing motion or elevation of the water in the part not equally pressed; so it is *gravitatio ad motum*, and not simply *ad pondus*. So if upon a vessel of water there be placed a Body specifically heavier than water, but not exactly commensurate to its superficies; here is *gravitatio ad motum*, as well as *ad pondus*; for the body sinking into the water must needs raise up as much water as the space it self takes in subsiding into the vessel of water.

And upon the same account it is, if the subsiding body be a Fluid, as *Mercury*, it will by sinking into the water drive up as much water as the room it takes, and so make the superficies higher; so that an unequal pressure of any Fluid must necessarily make a motion upwards

upwards of the parts of it, and thereby raise the superficies by so much in bulk of water as will countervail the room that the immersed body takes up in the water. And this and the like I call sensible gravitation, or gravitation *ad motum*.

5. There is a difference between *Pondus*, and *Potentia*; and this is well enough evidenced in the instance of the Oyl and Water above given: The oyl gravitates upon all the superficies of the water, except that subjected to the orifice of the Tube *E* there is the *pondus* of the oyl and the water driving up, and sustaining the water in the Tube to that height that equiponderates a like column of oyl there is the *Potentia*.

Mr. *Sinclere* and others, that contend for the Solution of the *Torricellian* Experiment by the Gravitation of the Ayr, apply this difference unto two instances, which possibly in the event of their Examination will appear otherwise; namely: 1. That the Ayr equally pressing the restagnated Mercury in all places thereof, but that

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18 Observations touching the

which is directly under the column of the suspended Mercury, and thereby Equiponderating a column of Mercury only of 29 Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  and no more, keeps it suspended at that height by the Equipondium of both, there is the Gravitation of the column of Mercury, which is the *pondus*, and the Impending column of Ayr, which is the *potentia sustinens*, that Counterpoyseth that *pondus*. I shall have occasion to use this difference of *pondus* and *potentia*, in relation to this Experiment also, but in a different way.

2. The other instance, to which he applies this difference, is in all Fluids, whether Ayr, Water, Mercury, or any else: Namely, if a Body be in any depth of Water; suppose above it were 20 foot of Water, and below it two, three, or four Foot of Water, or more, subjacent to the lower Base of the Body. The upper column of Water is supposed to press downwards, *per modum ponderis*, upon the upper Superficies of the Body, and the lower column of Water, contiguous to the lower Superficies of the Body, is supposed to press upwards,

*per*



*Torricellian Experiment.* 19

*per modum potentia.* And he supposeth that the pressure of the *potentia* upwards, is alwayes equal to the pressing of the *pondus* downward: This is a supposition fitted principally for the accommodating of the Solution of the Cohesion of Polished Marbles, by the Gravitation and *potentia* of the Ayr, pressing upwards and downwards, and some other instances, whereunto the single Gravitation of Ayr downwards will not be sufficient: The proof whereof will be considered hereafter.

6. There is a difference between the resistance or Renitence of a Fluid, and the Gravitation or pressure thereof: If a man strikes forcibly with the flat of his hand upon the Superficies of the Water, he shall find near as much pain as if he struck upon a Board, although the Water doth not counter-move the hand, but receives and resists its sudden force; the like occurs frequently in Ayr: The fierce striking of a wand through it, bends the wand, and the fierce Collisian of the Bullet against it, is not without a resistance of the Ayr,

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though

20 **O**bservations touching the  
though too weak to encounter it.

And this Renitence or resistance, without any counter-motion at all by the Water, is that which makes the Motion of the same heavy Body through the Water considerably slower than through the Ayr; and the same Weight of Led or Iron, or other heavy Body in Water, to weigh less upon the Scale, than when it is in Ayr, the retardation of its Motion, and the correction of its weight, being the same effect of the same Cause; namely, the resistance of the Water, greater than in the Ayr, without relation to any counter-motion, or counter-pressure in the Water it self.

7. There is a difference between Rarefaction and Tention, and between Condensation and Compression, though the effects be much alike in both.

Rarefaction, (for instance, of the Ayr) is the Extention of its parts, commonly by heat, or what is equivalent, the fiery Partacles that it receives, whether from the Sun, the *Æther*, or common fire, or other Calefactive nature.

Ten-

### Torricellian Experiment.

21

Tension, is when the parts of the Ayre are distended by virtue of some force or power that layes hold of its Extremes, as a Lute-string is under a Tension to a greater length, by a considerable weight appended to it; only it hath this difference, a Lute-string or the like, is not capable of Tension in length, but it must have a contraction in thickness, but Ayre as it hath a motion every way, so it is capable of Tension every way.

The effects aswel of Tension as Rarefaction, are these, *viz.* the same substance holds thereby a greater and more extended space. 2. The Body, thus either by heat or force, Rarefied or Tensed beyond its true natural size and staple, hath a Motion of restitution, naturally contracting it self, and pressing inward. 3. The Body thus contracting it self, by the Catholick Law of Nature, to preserve the continuity of the World, layes hold upon the Bodies next adjacent, and conterminous to it, and as much as it can draws it inward.

Again, Condensation and Compression differ in this, that the former is

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commonly



22 Observations touching the  
commonly made by the Constipation  
of Cold; the latter, by any other forcible  
pressure, as in Wind-guns, Æolipiles,  
and the like.

They both agree in their effects.

1. That the Ayr Condensed or Compressed, takes up less room or space, than  
its natural and due size. 2. That they  
have each a Motion of restitution, by expanding  
itself to its just size.

And this Elatory or Spring, I allow  
to the Ayr; namely, of retraction, and  
expansion, when put out of its natural  
size or staple: But the imaginary prodigious  
Spring, attributed to the common Ayr,  
as its natural tendency, I take to be only  
invention.

It is hard to say to what proportion  
Ayr may be Rarefied or Tensed; some  
think to above 70 times its common extension,  
or to what degree it may be Condensed  
or Rarefied; some think to seven, nine,  
or ten times, less then its ordinary consistences,  
or more: *Quod vide apud Morfen in pneumaticis, et aliis.*

8. There is a difference between the  
common Gravitation of a Fluid of  
any

*Torricellian Experiment.* 23

any kind, as it is a heavy Body, and the appropriate Gravitation of it as it is a Fluid Body: In respect of the former, it doth as all heavy Bodies, press perpendicularly downward towards the Centre; But as it is a Fluid Body, it hath an appropriate Gravitation of its own, whereby it corrects and allayes in some sort, its common Gravitation: For instance, Water in its own consistency, hath a lateral Motion, a Motion *per declivè*, an Horizontal Motion, within the compass of its own Superficies; yea, and a Vertical Motion upward, within the compass of its own Superficies: As if a Tube full of Ayr, stopt below, be immersed into Water, and then unstopped, the Water will heave as freely upward as it would otherwise downward, till it attain its own common level or Superficies; and suitable to its Motion is its Gravitation, which is nothing else but *motus*, or *conatus ad motum*.

And besides this appropriate Gravitation of Fluids, there is a certain proper and connatural Texture in Fluids,

24 **Observations touching the**

and especially in Ayr, whereby the subjected parts do suspend, and hold up considerably the Superior parts from any considerable Gravitation, so that no Body, or portion of space less than the whole Base of the whole Fluid is considerably pressed upon by any such imaginary Column Commensurated to the Base of the subjected Fluid, as hath been elsewhere observed, and will be further Illustrated in some of the following Chapters,

9. There is a common and allowable difference between the pure Ayr, such as may be in the upper Region, and that which is now commonly called the Atmosphere. The former is so pure and subtil, that the greatest pretenders to the Ayrs Gravitation that I have seen, do not take upon them to determine, that it hath any Weight.

The Atmosphere, is that portion of the Ayr that is the common receptacle of Vapours, and the *Effluvia* of the Earth and Water, whereby it is less subtil than the pure Ayr.

Though some, out of the confidence they



*Torricellian Experiment.* 25

they have of their attaining the just proportion of weight between Water and Ayr, and the just proportion of weight between Mercury and Water, and upon the high confidence they have of the just *Equipondium* between 29 Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Mercury, and a Column of Atmosphere of the same thickness with the Column of Mercury, have undertaken, to define the just height of the Atmosphere; some determining it to be just 7000 Fathoms, some 7 Miles; yet the Doctors much differ among themselves in their account; some telling us, they take it to be 22 Miles high, others 50, others above 100.

And there must needs be an exceeding incertainty in this way of Computing it. For first, Though the just proportion of weight between the Quicksilver and Water is easily and certainly discovered to be truly as *Mersennus*, and others, have accounted it, *viz.* that one Cubick Inch of Mercury will just counterpoise 13 Cubick Inches and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Water; yet the proportion of weight that Ayr bears to Water, (if it have

26 Observations touching the

have any real weight at all,) is not to be exactly Calculated, whatsoever Experiments have been made thereof by *Mersennus* and others; the former telling us, that the weight of Water to Ayr, is as one to about 1300; the others telling us it is as one to 1000, or at least some small proportion less.

2. Admit the proportion were justly known, yet those that take their measure of the height of the Atmosphere, or Gravitating Ayr, (if any such be) by the supposed *Equipondium*, between 29 Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the suspended Mercury; and a Column of Ayr commensurate in thickness to such a Mercurial Column, have bottomed themselves, as I think, upon a false Foundation. 3. But if it were true, as they would have it, yet even upon their own principles, it is extremely mistaken and convinced by their own suppositions and Experiments, as shall be observed in the ensuing Chapters.

And thus far to render my self intelligible in my expressions in the future Inquiry.

*Torricellian Experiment.* 27

I shall only add some Matters that will be useful as to the point of Calculation.

The weight of Water is various, according to several places; *Stevin* tells us, that in some parts of *Holland*, a Cubique Foot of Water weighs 63 pound; as I remember, Mr. *Sinclere* Computes it to 56 pound, and consequently, a Cube of Water 6 Inches square, weighs 7 pounds; and I have by tryal found, that it weighs 7 pounds wanting two Ounces; but the Standard of 56 pound and 7 pound, ordinarily sutes the proportion of weight of those two Bodies: Upon tryal, I have found the proportion very little differing, viz. a Cube of 6 Inches square of Water to weigh 7 pound wanting two Ounces, and consequently a Cubical Foot to weigh 55 pound 4 Ounces.

The readiest way to avoid Fractions and the long process of Arithmetical Calculations, is by immersing any regular or other Solid Body into a Vessel full of Water, and to save that which

is



28 **Observations touching the**

is impelled over by the immersion of the Solid Body, to discover the proportion of weight between such a Solid, and a Fluid of the same Moles or Dimensions.

The measure of a Cubique or Square Body, is by Multiplying the one side into the other, to find the Area of Inches; and by Multiplying the Area by the measure of Inches in profundity.

The measure of a Cylinder is by multiplying half the Diameter into half the Circumference, which yields the Area, and Multiplying the Area (of Inches) into the number of Inches, in the depth of the Cylinder: I mention these Figures, because the most ordinary and useful in Hydrostaticques.

Mercury is thirteen times and an half and somewhat more heavier than the like quantity of Water, as I have found upon tryal: If it be taken fourteen times heavier, it will not be much out of the way, and avoids Fractions And therefore upon that computation if a Cube of six Inches Square of Water weighs seven pound, a like  
Cube

*Torricellian Experiment.* 29

Cube of Mercury will weigh 98 pound  
Averdupoise.

The often use of Mercury even in  
the *Torricellian* Experiment, but espe-  
cially, where there is occasion of fre-  
quent Superfusion or Infusion of Wa-  
ter in the operation, will certainly  
much alter its Texture, Weight, and  
Use, as I have Experimentally found.

It is a matter of great difficulty to  
avoid the immission of Ayr in the  
*Torricellian* Experiment, which will  
much disorder the operations.

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CHAP.

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## CHAP. III.

*Concerning the Gravitation of Bodies;  
and first, concerning the Gravitation of  
Fluids, in relation to Fluids of the same  
kind and consistence: And therein also,  
first of the Gravitation of Water upon  
water.*

ALL heavy Bodies have a Physical Gravitation belonging to them, as the natural effect of that Gravity; for Gravitation is either Motion, or *conatus ad motum*, which is the natural effect or action of Gravity.

And yet although the parts of all continued Homogeneal heavy Bodies participate of the same common Gravity, that is common to the whole *continuum*; Those parts are impeded in their actual or sensible Gravitation one upon another, by the support that each inferiour part gives to the superiour parts, as the upper parts of a Cube of Lead do not actually Gravitate upon the



*Torricellian Experiment.* 31

the inferior parts, because the upper are Mechanically impeded by the lower, from their actual Gravitation upon them; yet every Atom thereof contributes to the Gravitation of the whole upon the Scale.

But if the Solid Body be not all of the same consistence, but the lower are of a lighter or more laxe Texture, or consistence than the upper, there the upper parts will not only Physically and really, but Mechanically and sensibly Gravitate upon the lower, according to the measure of their excess of weight and solidity above the lower, as if the upper part of a concrete Cube consists of Lead, and the lower parts of Clay, in process of time, at least the upper will crumble away and decay the lower, by their more prevalent Gravitation, and the imparity of the resistance and sustentation of the lower.

Touching the Gravitation of Fluids upon Fluids, of the same kind and consistence, I shall premise something; and first, concerning the Gravitation of Water upon Water, and then of Ayr upon Ayr.

It

32 **Observations touching the**

It seems clear, that the upper parts of Water do not actually or sensibly Gravitate or press upon the lower parts of Water; They do indeed Gravitate *ad pondus* and Physically upon the lower, so as to make the whole heavier, but they do not Gravitate *ad motum*, or sensibly: That which persuades me hereunto is Reason and Experience, or Observation.

(Fig. 2.) For Reason, I alledge, that if the upper parts, suppose the Cube of Water *C* should Gravitate sensibly upon *D*, and consequently upon *E*, in the Vessel of Water *AB*, it must either be by displacing of *D* and *E* from their position, and so *C* to subside in the place of *D*, and after in the place of *E*, or else it must be by Compressing of *D* into a shallower space; but it can be neither of these, and therefore it cannot sensibly or *ad motum*, Gravitate upon *D*, and consequently upon *E*.

As to the first Proposition, we cannot, that I know of, think of a third; It is true, it hath a Gravitation *ad pondus*, because it adds the weight of a Cube

Cube of Water to the common weight of the Water, but as to any sensible Gravitation, or Gravitation *ad motum* it is otherwise.

As to the minor Proposition, it consists of two Parts; 1. An Exclusion of the displacing of *D*: 2. An Exclusion of its compression or contraction in height.

1. It cannot remove *D* from the place it holds, because the Cube of Water *C* is of equal weight and solidness with that of *D*, and it must be either a Body intrinsically or at least extrinsically heavier than *D*, that must make *D* give place to it.

If it be said that *D* may get out of either side, and so give way to the pressure of *C*, that cannot be, for the Colateral or Transversal Column of either side, as strongly compresseth *D* as the Cube *C*, because each side is not only pressing with its lateral pressure against the sides of *D*, But there impends upon that lateral Column a Cube or Column, of equal height with *C*, and presseth as hard upon it.

*D* 2. Again,



34 **Observations touching the**

2. Again, if *C* should actually and sensibly Gravitate upon *D*, and consequently *C* and *D* upon *E*, and so *C* should subside, that which is driven up would possess the place of *C*, and then that should subside again, and other should succeed in its place, and so the Body should be in perpetual Motion, which is not only contrary to common Sense and Experience, but to Reason also.

3. Again, (which is but a various Explication of the first instance) it is not possible for a Body of equal weight (such as *C* is to *D*) to impel or drive out of its place a Body of the same equal weight, for the resistance is as strong as the power that should move it, which necessarily must give rest; for if the Cube *D* be driven out of its place unto a higher Superficies, it must be driven up by a greater weight than it self, otherwise it will never obey it, nor yield to it.

Some therefore finding these difficulties, have resorted to the second part, namely, That the Cube *D* is compressed into a shallower consistence: But this cannot be neither.

First,

*Torricellian Experiment.* 35

First, if it be compressed downwards; namely, between *C* and *E*, and also *E* between *D* and the Fund, then it must be compressed narrower also, because for the reason before given, the lateral pressures against the sides of *D* must be as effectual as that upon the upper Base of *D*; which would make strange work.

Secondly, Though the quality of Air be such, as it may be capable of Compression, yet Water is utterly incapable of it; if we lay a weight of a hundred pound upon a Vessel of Water, indeed if it do not compress the whole Superficies of the Water entirely, it will drive it up where it doth not press; but if it strictly cover the whole Superficies of the Water, it will never press it shallower.

Thirdly, It is more evident to Experience, that the lower parts of the Water are not pressed by the upper: For first, If it should be so, a Tube of Water, suppose ten Foot long, filled and closely stopped at both ends, would break the Glass, if it lay Horizontally,

36 **Observations touching the**

or if a reclined Tube were exactly filled, yet being set up perpendicularly, it would leave a vacancy, which it will never do, notwithstanding the pretended Accession of the Gravitation of Ayr to boot. Again secondly, Let any man try it in a Tube of Water of considerable length, and put in a little button of Wax, inclosing a peece of Lead to make it sink, it will sink to the bottom of the Water, rather with some little degrees of Acceleration, the lower it descends; which could never be, if the Water were more compact and prest below than above.

As to Experiments and Observations, it is agreed by all persons, that have treated of Hydrostatiques, that I know, only one excepted, That if a Solid Body, suppose of Wood, of equal weight with the like quantity of Water, be placed in Water, it will rest in all Positions under the Superficies of the Water, which could not possibly be, if the Water towards the bottom were more compressed than it is towards the Superficies: This is agreed by *Archimedes*;

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*Torricellian Experiment.* 37

medes, the Master of Hydrostatiques, in his Book, *De Insidentibus Humido*; by Stevin, in his *Hydrostatical Elements*, Prop. 4. By Mr. wallis, Mr. Boyle, and others.

Only a late Author, in his *Hydrostatical Theorems*, tells us, that such a Solid will emerge so, that its upper Superficies will be contiguous to the Superficies of the Water; And this he concludes, not so much upon his Observation or Experience, for ought I can find, as upon this very supposition, that the Water below is more compressed than that above.

It is a difficult matter to find any Solid by its own specifical uniform weight, to be just equal to the weight of a bulk of Water of an equal dimension to it, without application of some subsidiary supplies to equal it, which possibly may make the Experiment it self uneffectual; yet upon the best tryal I could make by such subsidiary applications, I rather find such an Equiponderating Solid rather to be apt to subside to the bottom, than emerge to the top.

### 38 Observations touching the

2. Again, the next Experiment which I shall mention, shall be that of the same Author, in his seventeenth Experiment, wherein, if I understand him aright, he contradicts what he had delivered in his fifteenth Theorem: viz. *If a Glass bubble with a long stem turned up, heated, and then the stem Hermetically sealed and depressed into the water, by a convenient weight of Lead, and the Bubble tyed with a string to the Beam of a Ballance, with so much weight as might counterpoise the Bubble, then the stem broken with a Forcept, whereby the water entred and half filled the Bubble, the Bubble subsided and required an addition of a farther counterpoise of 4 Drams and 38 Grains, to reduce it to an Equilibrium, then the Bubble taken out, and the water driven out of it, weighed 4 Drams and 30 Grains: This instance being given by a worthy Person, to prove, that Water weighs in Water: But the Author, in answer thereunto, clearly evinceth, that the Water in the Bubble is supported by the subjacent Water, and concludes evidently thereupon, that*  
Water

Water weighs not in Water.

3. Again, if Water should sensibly Gravitate upon Water, it must as sensibly Gravitate upon any Body subjected in it, especially if it be at the Base or fund of the Water: But the Experience of divers, of the agility of Fish of a great breadth, lying at the bottom of the Water, and infinite more, do sufficiently evince, that the weight of the superior parts of Water Gravitate not upon the inferior parts, with any sensible pressure, for if it should, it must of necessity Gravitate upon the interjacent Water, lying between the uppermost Cube and the Body; and if it should do so, it must considerably Gravitate upon the subjacent Body.

But this *Non-gravitation of Water upon Water, or upon subjected Bodies, and the reasons thereof*, I have elsewhere examined.

(Fig. 3.) An excellent Person, in the first, second, and last Chapters of *Hydrostatical Paradoxes*, hath endeavoured to prove the actual Gravitation of the



40 Observations touching the

superior parts of Water upon the inferior, by three instances, *viz.* If in the third Figure, the Vessel *AB* be filled with Water unto the Superficies *c d*, and then the Tube be by suction filled with Oyl of Turpentine (a Body lighter than so much Water) be stopped nimblely at the top, whereby the Oyl remains suspended, and then the lower open end be immersed in the Vessel of Water unto any depth, suppose *H*, and then the Finger be removed from *G*, the Superficies of the Tube, the Oyl will be kept up to such a height as may counterpoise the like Column of Water in the Vessel; and if it be immersed lower, the Oyl will rise in the Tube considerably higher, and if it be lifted up higher, nearer to the Superficies of the Water, the Oyl will subside lower, and discharge part of it self into the Water, because then the like Column of Water in the Vessel grows shorter, and hath a less counterpoise to the Column of Oyl in the Tube, which he concludes to be a concludent evidence of the various degrees of Gravitation  
of

*Torricellian Experiment.* 41

of the Water upon the various imaginary Superficies thereof. The second instance is like it, namely, That if the same Vessel were filled with Oyl to the Superficies *CD*, and the Tube *g* filled three or four Inches with Water by suction, and the upper end *g* nimblely stopt with the Finger, and then the lower end *H* immerfed in the Oyl, the deeper it is immerfed, the higher the Superficies of the Water in the Tube will remain sustained, and the nearer it is brought to the Superficies, the lower it will subside, by reason of the various degrees of Gravitation of the Oyl in several imaginary Superficies; though at the highest elevation of the Tube of Oyl, in the first instance, the Oyl, in respect of its less Gravity than Water, will sit somewhat higher in the Tube than the Superficies of the Water; and the Water in the Tube, in the second instance, will sit lower than the Superficies of the Oyl, because exceeding it, quantity for quantity in specifical Gravity. 3. The third is that of the value, which deeply immerfed  
in

42 **Observations touching the**

in Water, the cover of the value will be sustained by the Gravitation of the Water, with a considerable weight appended to it.

But it seems to me, that these Experiments concludes nothing to this business; but only evidence a resistance of the Water to that Body which will raise its Superficies. For it is apparent, that there is required a pressure, or force, to raise the Body of Water to a higher Superficies, exceeding the weight of so much Water as is so impelled higher than before, or at least equal to it.

Now the pressing down of the Tube of Oyl into the Water, or the Tube of Water into the Oyl, raiseth the Superficies of the Water or Oyl so much as the Tube is impressed into the Water, namely, a quantity of Oyl or Water in the Vessel, equal to the Body impressed and immersed in it, is raised thereby, and put out of its former place, which it contends against, by a Resistance resistance, or contrary pressure; and as the less of the Tube is immersed, the



*Torricellian Experiment.* 43

the less Liquor in the Vessel is moved up; so the more of that Body is immersed, the more is pressed up, and consequently, the greater pressure is made upon the Water, the lower it is immersed; because it takes up more room in the Water, and a greater force is thereby exercised, to the elevation of a greater quantity of Water; and that Water, the more it is, hath the more accidental weight, or rather, resistance, against that force which thus raiseth it up above its common superficies, which before it obtained.

And that this is the true reason of it, and not the various Gravitations of the superior parts upon the inferior, seems evident by this one instance, which because it will be useful hereafter, upon other occasions, I shall here insert more largely, though the thing be commonly known.

I filled a Tube of Lead of six Inches Diameter, and four Foot deep, and close at the bottom with Water; And took a Porringer of Pewter, five Inches Diameter, and about two Inches deep, and

#### 44 Observations touching the

and filled it with leaden Shot, and poured Water into it, to fill up the chinks, and making four holes, I suspended it with a Packthrid, like the Dish of a pair of Scales, and exactly weighing it, and the Shot, Thred, and Water, it weighed all exactly 78 Ounces, wanting  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an Ounce; then suspending the Dish with a Packthrid, to the end of the beam, I set it down 40 Inches deep into the Water, below its Superficies, and it lost its weight, by the resistance and crassitude of the *medium*, viz. the Water 9 Ounces  $\frac{1}{2}$  of its weight in Ayr; and so weighed 68 Ounces, and near about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an Ounce; and just the same weight it held, when raised 15 Inches, when raised 28 Inches, though it was then within 12 Inches of the Superficies; but at last, when I raised it 12 Inches higher, so that the Superficies of the weight was equal with it, and yet it lost not above  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an Ounce; which I decrement, was, as I think, because possibly the four strings that sustained it were not now under Water.

What

*Torricellian Experiment.* 45

What then is the reason why, when the Tube of Oyl or Water is sunk lower, the pressure of the Water is unequal? and why in this instance, the weight of the Dish is no more charged with the weight of the Water, at 40 Inches, than when just even with the Superficies of the Water: I say it is not the Gravitation of the superior parts of the Water upon the inferior, for then my weight of 5 Inches Diameter could never keep the same weight at 40 Inches depth of Water, at 12 Inches depth, and just at the Superficies; but the true reason is, because in the weight of the Porringer and Shot, being the same bulk at 40 Inches deep, as at the very Superficies, drives up no more Water out of its place at one station, than another; namely, a bulk commensurate to the bulk of the Porringer, Shot, and included Water, which is the same, both at the fund of the Tube, and when its Superficies is contiguous to the Superficies of the Water: But in the instances of the Tube, if it were suppressed an Inch Dia-



46 Observations touching the  
Diameter, when it is immersed an Inch  
its *potentia*, lifts up but a part of Water  
commensurate to that Inch; and there-  
fore the resistance, or Renitence between  
the Tube, and the Water, is but little;  
but when it is immersed ten Inches,  
there is ten times more Water driven  
up, and therefore the Renitence is the  
greater, and impels the Liquor included  
in the Tube the higher; But this con-  
cerns nothing the weight of Water in  
its quiet consistence: His other Expe-  
riments, in order to the proof of the  
Gravitation of Water upon Water, I  
shall consider in the fifth Chapter.

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CHAP.

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CHAP. IV.

*Concerning the Gravitation of the Ayr  
upon Ayr, or any subjected Bodies in  
it.*

THE Question in hand concernes  
not Ayr put out of its ordinary  
texture, but touching the free Ayr,  
wherein Men and Animals live and  
breath.

And now to state this Question a-  
right, we must consider, 1. What the  
Question is not, and 2. What the Que-  
stion is.

1. The Question is not whether Ayr  
compressed and thrust together, hath a  
weight in it that may put it into a con-  
siderable Gravitation upon other Ayr,  
either not compressed at all, or less  
compressed; for it seems very proba-  
ble by the Experiments of these Ex-  
cellent Men, *Mersennus*, *Shottus*, Mr.  
*Boyl*, and others, that have set them-  
selves unto tryals, in order to this in-  
quiry,

48 Observations touching the

quity, that such a Gravitation may and doth happen by the compression of Ayr in Æolipiles and Wind-guns, that such Ayr may have a pretty evident preponderation to so much free and common Ayr.

2. Neither is it the Question, whether there may not be, or are not interspersions of Vapours *Effluvia*, and *Effluvia*, or other *Molecula* even in the free and common Ayr, that considered in themselves, have a preponderation even to the Ayr it self, for although the strict intermingling, interweaving, and contiguation of some Vapours and *Effluvia*, grosser and weightyer than the Ayr it self, may enable the Ayr to sustain and bear up many of these grosser Bodies, (as Water oftentimes sustains minute Bodies, or Gravels of Sand specifically heavier than the Water) yet we every day see, that if these portions of interspersed Vapours or *Effluvia*, grow too heavy for the Ayr to sustain them, they are precipitated out of it, and discharge themselves upon the Earth, as we see in Hail, Snow, Rain,

and



and Mists. 3. Neither is the Question, whether a portion of the free Ayr, separated and disjoyned from all communication with the foreign Ayr, hath any Gravitation or no, for it seems to me, that it may have, by such a separation an actual Gravitation, which is not by reason that it acquires any new quality or accession of weight, than it had before, but by reason of such separation it doth *Remove prohibens* of its actual Gravitation; namely, the contignation that it hath with the common Ayr, into and with which it was in continuity, it was interwoven, and that little inconsiderable Gravitation that it naturally and simply considered hath, is overmatched and broken by those interveining Filaments of the rest of the Ayr, with which it is in continuity.

And therefore I do think, that if Ayr of the same consistence with the Ayr we live in, were freely let into a Bladder, which we will *per impossibile* suppose to be destitute of all weight, such a Bladder of Ayr, thus filled, (though without the help of *inflation*,

E

by

50 **Observations touching the**

by our *longes*, which must needs carry with it some fuliginous Ingredients; ) I say, such a Bladder of Ayr would subside in the same common Ayr out of which it was taken, and would Gravitate upon the Ballance, more than the like quantity of free and open Ayr incumbent upon the other Ballance.

Nay farther I dare adventure to say, That if we could suppose a Tube, open at both ends, so long, as to reach from the top of the Atmosphere, unto this Earth, such an included portion of Ayr, severed from communion with the Atmosphere, would have some Gravitation more considerable perchance, than we have ever felt from the open Ayr.

For I do much attribute the exclusion of all sensible Gravitation of the free Ayr, to that mutual interweaving of the Filaments of Ayr one into another, like a vast Net, with small Mashcs or *interstitia*, filled gradually with parts more and more subtil; and this contiguation sustains and keeps the parts of it from that separation, that otherwise  
the

*Torricellian Experiment.* 51

the interposition of a grosser body would intercept: And although Water, in respect of its weight and texture, be more subject to disjoyn from the rest of its body, than Ayr is, we shall find in the next Chapter somewhat Analogous to this, even in a consistent Body of Water.

4. Neither is it the Question, whether even the free Ayr it self may have some intrinsique Gravity, though admirably little and inconsiderable; for if we do suppose the compression of divers Particles of Ayr may render that compressed Body of Ayr sensibly heavy, we may not wholly exclude those Particles from all kind of Gravity before compression, for no weighty Body can arise from the coalition of such parts as had no manner of Gravity before.

5. Nay, yet farther, the Question is not, whether as the free Ayr hath some intrinsique Gravitation; so neither is it the Question, whether this free Ayr hath not some, though very inconsiderable measure of actual Gravitation;  
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52 **Observations touching the**

it is not impossible but it may have some, though scarce perceptible to sense, notwithstanding all the inter-spertions and mixtures of Vapours and *Effluvia* from the Earth and Water.

But the Question is, whether the free and common Ayr, wherein we live, which is commonly called Atmosphere, extending upwards about seven Miles or more, hath any sensible actual Gravitation upon the lower World. 2. Admit it have, whether any determinate portion of that Atmosphere, as a Column or inverted Cone, for the purpose, of six Inches square at the Base, hath any actual Gravitation upon the subjected Base, upon which it is supposed to rest. 3. Admit it hath, whether that Gravitation be of any considerable, and of what moment.

Before I come to discuss the Questions themselves, it will be necessary to repeat somewhat that I have before said, touching the proportion of Gravitation, that is allotted to a portion of, for instance of six Inches square of the Atmosphere, when it pertaineth near to the Superficies of the Earth. A

*Torricellian Experiment.* 53

A Cube of Water, six Inches square, contains 216 square Inches, and upon the exact Calculation of those that have tryed it, weighs just seven Pounds, and a Cube of twelve Inches square of Water weighs 56 Pounds.

A Cube of Quicksilver weighs fourteen times as much as the like quantity of Water, though *Mersennus*, and some others, nearer to the truth, compute it to be thirteen and  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; but I will make my Calculation by fourteen, to avoid Fractions.

The consequence whereof will be, that a Cube of six Inches square of Mercury, will weigh 98 Pounds, which is fourteen times as much as the like Cube of Water.

The consequence whereof is, that fourteen such Tubes of Mercury weighs 1372 pound.

In the *Torricellian Experiment*, the Mercury is sustained to the height of 29 Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; to avoid Fractions, let us reckon it 30 Inches, be the Column never so large.

If the Column of Mercury be fix

E 3

Inches

54 Observations touching the

Inches square at the Base, then there will be five such square Cubes of Mercury in that Column will weigh 490 Pounds: According to the late Philosophy, this Column of Mercury is counterpoised with a Column of the Atmosphere of six Inches square, and extending from the restagnant Mercury to the upper surface of the Atmosphere.

And consequently, this Column of Ayr or Atmosphere, doth actually gravitate with a weight of 490 Pounds, upon the restagnant Mercury, and really and actually weighs as much as that comes to; and consequently, when I hold a Trencher in my hand of six Inches square, there is incumbent upon it 490 Pound weight of Ayr, though there be found a help in that case to support it, by the recoyling Column of Ayr, commensurate to it; whereof in its due place.

And this is the supposition I contend against in this paper, viz. that 1. The whole Body of the Atmosphere hath no considerable Gravitation either upon its own



*Torricellian Experiment.* 55

own parts, or upon the subjected Body of the Terrestrial Globe, much less such a prodigious Gravitation as is here supposed. 2. If it had, yet any given portion or Column of the Atmosphere, hath no such Gravitation.

Touching the Gravitation of the whole Atmosphere in general, upon the Terrestrial Globe entirely, I shall not say much, because it is not capable of Experiment, only my reason and sense suggests it to me, that it is neither evident nor likely to be of so vast a Gravitation as the late Philosophers affirm.

First, I confess I am none of those Adepts in Philosophy, that can tell us how to solve all the effects in Nature, without recourse to the infinite Wisdom, Power, and Goodness of the Glorious God, who certainly knew better how to frame the World, and fix the Laws of Nature, than the wisest of Men or Angels. I must confess, I know not how to resolve the reason of the Motion of weighty Bodies downward nor why or how either the Sun holds his regular Motion, if the Hypothesis

56 Observations touching the

of *Ptolemy* be true, or why the Earth, as other Planetary Bodies, holds its regular Motion, if the Systeme of *Copernicus*, and *Galileus*, be true, and a thousand such instances; but into the primitive disposition and ordination of the Most Wise, Powerful, and Sovereign Lord and Maker of the World, who hath fixed the Order and Law of Nature, by his Sovereign *Fiat*, with the most exact accommodation of it to the concerns of the Universe, and all the parts thereof; and with most incomparable Congruity. This Sovereign Architect, that hath made all the parts of this *Mundus aspectabilis* in Order, Weight, and Measure, and designed the Earth and Ayr, for the habitation and use of Men, and all other breathing Animals, and likewise for Vegetables, hath so ordered and digested the texture of the Ayr, that the inferior part is more gross than the superior, and fitted for nourishment and respiration; the upper parts more subtil, and pure, and light, and destined to other uses, hath ballanced the Ayr, so that the more light

light and subtil parts are inclinable perchance, more to ascend; and the lower parts gradually more laden with Particles of a grosser allay, and so possibly thereby inclinable to subside; and he hath connected the more subtile, and the more Feculent parts thereof, so together, that they hold an *Equilibrium* as a state and posture more serviceable to the ends and uses he designed for it, and for which they serve: The proceeding of this Sovereign Architect in the Frame of this great Building of the Universe, not being like to the Architecture of men, who begin at the bottom; but he began at the Roof, and Builded downwards, and in that process, suspended the inferior parts of the World upon the superior. But this kind of reasoning, I know, is not grateful to the palate of the present Philosophers; I therefore proceed.

Secondly, Therefore I say, that the common appearances of the World, so far as they are obvious to our common senses, contradicts this immense, nay, or any considerable Gravitation of the  
Atmo-



58 **Observations touching the**

Atmosphere upon subjected Bodies; It is hardly conceivable, how Birds could raise themselves upon their wings, and keep themselves in free Ayr, if a burthen perchance of above 1000 pound weight should lie upon their Wings and Bodies; it were not possible for me to breath, to walk, to stand upon my Feet, if at every time I open my Mouth, a Column of Ayr of three hundred pounds weight were pressing into it, it would tare open the valves of my *Larinx*, and blow up my Stomach and Intrals, like a Bladder, and break my Ribs, if it had an admission; and if it had not the circumjacent pressure of the Ayr, would press me to death: These and the like instances render this prodigious Gravitation of the Ayr incredible to us vulgar Souls, that are apt to credit our senses.

But I very well know, that these will be said to be vulgar common places, and that they have many handsome Solutions of these common difficulties.

And it is true, I very well know, they

they have colourable Solutions for those sensible occurrences, as the supposed counterpoise of included Ayr, and of the recoyling Columns of Ayr; which I shall in due time consider.

But I do reply, that though these common instances perchance amount not to demonstrations of the untruth of the Hypothesis, yet they do require a very great and very clear evidence to encounter even those vulgar experiences; and therefore, if any Solutions offered of them, are not perfectly conclusive, but strained, and the instances they give in their favour, are capable of any other Solution, than this which is so visibly and apparently contrary to our sense; such Solutions and such instances are too weak and impotent to build such uncouth conclusions upon.

Thirdly, Therefore I say, there is not any one instance or experiment, that ever I yet heard of, for the evincing of this imaginary Gravitation of the free Ayr, but is readily capable of a more futable Solution more adequately fitted

60 **Observations touching the**

fitted to the *Phænomenon*, and less incumbered with difficulties than this new Solution, by the Gravitation and Elatory of the Ayr. I shall refer my self herein to Mr. *Linus* his Tract *De Inseparabilitate Corporum*: And *Honoraly Fabri*, in the 6<sup>th</sup> of his late *Philosophical Conferences*, wherein all the instances given from the *Magdeburg Engin*, and the *English Ayr Pump*, and particularly the *Torricellian Experiment*, are sufficiently and much more satisfactory and naturally solved, without recourse to this imaginary Weight or Spring of Ayr.

And there are above an hundred Experiments of this kind and nature, which can never by this solution be explicated (without intolerable torture of them) some instances whereof we shall in due time remember.

But omitting more that may be replied in general to the common Gravitation of the Ayr, I shall more particularly and closely apply my self to the second.

2. Therefore, admitting it were possible



*Torricellian Experiment.* 61

possible to suppose the whole Body of the Atmosphere might Gravitare upon the Earth in general, yet no one particular portion of the free and common Ayr, impending upon any one determinate Superficies, can at all or at least can sensibly or considerably Gravitare upon any determinate Basis.

And the reason seems to me to be this, because although we should admit a considerable Gravity of a portion of Ayr taken, divided and separated as one intire separate Gross Body (as in a Bladder, a Glass Bubble, or the like) so that it partakes of the common quality of heavy Bodies, yet there is a peculiar pressure or Gravitation belonging to this subtile Fluid Body, which hath its lines of direction every way within the compass of its own extream Superficies, whereby that perpendicular Gravitation, which is common to all Bodies, is corrected, abated, and in a great measure suspended. 2. Because that if there were no such allay given to its common perpendicular Gravitation, by its proper Motion or Gravitation of its own;

62 **O**bservations touching the

own; yet the Ayr being one continued Body, and so interwoven and mortaised as it were, one part in another, the other parts of the Ayr that are contiguous every where to the Earth, do sustain and bear it up, like the sides of an Arch, from any sensible pressure or Gravitation upon any determinate or particular Body, that is within the compass of its pressure; as I have elsewhere enforced the Argument in relation to the Gravitation of Water upon subjected Bodies, narrower than the common Base that supports such Water.

And although the Ayr hath an intermingling with it of Vapours and Terrestrial and Aqueous *Effluvia* heavier than it self; yet they are so interwoven in the very Webb and texture of the Ayr, that it supports many of them, and those that are too heavy for it, or much disunited and separate from it, are precipitated upon the Superficies of the Earth, and the Ayr discharged of them, as in Rain, Snow, Hail, subsiding Gravel Sand, &c.

And although the instance that

an

*Torricellian Experiment.* 63

am now giving, is more proper for the next Section, yet it is in some kind suitable for the explication of what I intend.

Of all hands it is agreed, that the Water, though a Fluid Body, is, some say, thirteen hundred times heavier than the like portion of Ayr; others, that it is a thousand times heavier; they that speak least, say it is above nine hundred times heavier than Ayr: And it is obvious to any that attends it, that there is not the same strict Cohesion of one part of Water with another, as is of one part of Ayr with another, unless divided by a more firm and stable Body then it self: And therefore there is far more reason, that one part or Column of Water in its consistency should Gravitate upon a subjected Body, than there is, that a Column of Ayr should in the free and open Ayr, Gravitate upon a body subjected to it; And yet it will be found, that in *libera aqua*, that Gravitation that it exerciseth upon a Body subjected to it, and capable of it, is not above one half so much as



64 **Obſervations touching the**

as the weight of ſuch a Column of Water, divided and ſeparated from the common conſiſtent Water.

It is true, I had not ſo dextrous a Meſſenger, to make the Experiment in the bottom of the Sea, or 20 Fathom within Water, as *Dromo* is Poetically related to have done, though I believe he never made that tryal: But I will give an account of what I have tryed and found.

(*Fig. 4*) I took a Glaſs Siphon of a quarter of an Inch Diameter, the longer legg 32 Inches, the ſhorter 8 Inches long, open at both ends.

I filled the ſhort legg with Mercury, which, accordingly as it muſt roſe to 8 Inches high in the longer legg, and then ſtopping the ſhorter legg with my Finger to avoid any violent preſſure by the fall of the Water upon the Mercury, I then filled the longer legg to the top with Water, and gently removing my Finger from the ſhorter legg, to avoid too violent an Exſpuliſion of the Mercury, I found the Mercury to ſubſide in the longer legg two Inches and a quarter, and

*Torricellian Experiment.* 65

and as much driven out of the shorter leg, by the accession of the weight of 24 Inches of Water in the longer leg, (which I confess is somewhat less than the proportion of weight between Water and Mercury; wherein, according to an exact calculation, 28 inches of Water counterpoiseth 2 Inches of Mercury. But then emptying the Water and Mercury out of the Tube, I again filled up the Tube with Mercury, to 8 Inches in both leggs, namely to the top of the short leg.

And then filling a glass Tube, of about three Inches diameter, and 32 Inches long, with Water, I immersed the Syphon with the Quick-silver to the bottom of the greater Tube full of Water. And although the column of Water in the great Tube, impending upon the orifice of the shorter leg, was full 24 Inches, yet it drew down the Mercury in the short leg, and raised it in the longer leg, empty of Water, only one Inch, and no more; whereby it did rise in the longer leg to 9 Inches, and subsided in the shorter to 7 Inches,

66 Observations touching the

as I could easily perceive through the great Tube, by a Scale of Inches, and quarters, fitted to each leg of the Syphon.

I then tried it doubly, *viz.* pouring in the Water into the longer legg of the the Syphon, whereby the subjacent Mercury subsided in the longer legg two Inches, and as much thereof driven out of the shorter legg, and then immersed the Syphon into a glass-vessel, 32 Inches deep, filled with Water; the Mercury thereupon subsided in the short legg somewhat neer an Inch, and no more, and accordingly impelled up the Mercury and incumbent Water in the longer legg neer an Inch: whereby it appears, that there was no *Æquipondium* between the pillar of Water included in the Tube, and the imaginary pillar of Water in the open vessel.

And in this experiment I must remember, that the orifice of the shorter legg of the Tube, and the legg it self, was of somewhat a larger diameter than the longer legg; and that might give some advantage to the pressure of the Water in the vessel upon the shorter legg



legg. But notwithstanding that advantage, the gravitation of the external Water, or any imaginary column thereof was not half so much as the gravitation of the Cylinder of Water included in the Tube; which is sufficient to convince the mistake of those, that assign an equal pressure to an imaginary column of free Air or Water, with an equal column of Air or Water that entirely presseth upon the Mercury, and hath no other circumjacent base to lean upon.

And it is to be noted, that although, as I have said, a Cylinder of two Inches of Mercury doth really counterpoise a Cylinder of 28 Inches of Water, of the same diameter, yet in this instance of the Syphon, 24 Inches of Water drew down two Inches of Mercury, and raised as much out of the shorter legg. And the reason seems to be, because the Mercury being in *aquilibrium*, was more capable of a sensible pressure by a less quantity of Water in this *libra naturalis*, than it would be, if both were weighed in their gross consistence in an artificial Scale.

# 68 Observations touching the

And the reasons why the pressure through the Tube, is stronger than the pressure by the open vessel of Water, are these: 1. Because in the Tube the Water included had no communion with any open or free Water, nor had any sustentation thereby, but in the common Water there is a communication and mutual sustentation of one part by another. 2. And principally because when in the Tube the Water had no other Base but the Mercury, to which it was commensurate, and therefore singly, and entirely, and adequately pressed it. But the Water in the vessel had another Base circumjacent to it, namely the bottom of the vessel, from which it was built like an Arch over the short legg of the Mercury, whereby the weight, pressing upon the Mercury, was broken, abated, and intercepted. For Water will find the lowest Base for its rest.

And surely if this be true in Water, as upon more than one tryal I found it, it will be much more so in the open Air, which will much disorder the whole hypothesis

*pothesis* of the Gravitation of the Air, and those very subtle and fine Conclusions that are spun out of it, and built upon it.

But I would not be mistaken, as if I meant that the Column of 24 Inches of free Water did gravitate upon the orifice of the shorter leg of the Syphon, to the weight of neer an Inch of Mercury, for That is wholly contrary to my Supposition: but only I hereby shew the great disproportion of the appearing Gravitation of Water, where it hath no lower nor other Base upon which it leans, but only the body of the Mercury, and where it hath another or lower Base upon which it leans.

For in this instance of the Syphon, there is another reason of the Gravitation of the free Water upon the cavity of the shorter leg of the Syphon: for here the pressing or keeping down of the body of the Syphon into the free Water, displaceth and raiseth up a portion of Water answerable to the bulk of the whole convex Superficies of the Syphon, which is far greater than its



70 **Observations touching the**

cavity; and that Water so displaced doth indeed press upon the Tube that displaceth it, and because it can find no part yeilding to its pressure but the orifice of the shorter Tube, it presseth there in such proportion, as the whole bulk of the Water, so lifted up by the immersion of the Syphon, bears to about an Inch of included Mercury, and 24 Inches of the Water included in the Tube. But of this more distinctly and exactly, when I come to examin the reason of the Valve.

2. But having thus offered my reasons against this prodigious Gravitation of the imaginary Aery Cylinders, I shall proceed to some plain and homely Experiments and Reasons, which seem to me very much to encounter the Supposition.

I shall begin with that whereunto I am sure they are furnished with an Answer, but such an Answer as will give me the opportunity of a Reply, which possibly may be of more moment, than if the Experiment it self were without an Answer.

Take a pair of Scales, the one Dish of 12  
Inches

# Torricellian Experiment. 71

Inches of diameter, the other of 3 Inches diameter, yet of that thickness, that it may be just of the same weight with the other, each dish weighing for the purpose three Pounds. These two Dishes will yet exactly equiponderate, yet the one sustains a Column of Air of above twelve times the weight of the other, yea and according to the proportion above computed, possibly the greater Column impending upon the greater Dish, may weigh above 4000l weight.

But there is a common Answer singularly fitted to this difficulty. For it is said, there is a Column of Air below each Dish, that hath a Superficies commensurate to the lower Base of each Dish, which though it be but 3 or 2 or 1 foot, nay but an Inch above the Earth, bears up each Dish as strongly as the Column of Air of 7 miles high bears them down, and so there is an *equipondium* between the *pondus deprimens* upon the upper side of the Scale, and the *patientia sustinens* of the lower side, and the Pillar of a Foot of length, between the Earth and the greater Scale, is of a

72 Observations touching the

Foot diameter, and sustains it as forcibly as the *pondus deprimens* of a Foot diameter depresseth it, and so it is supported by an equal force impelling it upward, as it is depressed by the weight of Air incumbent upon it. And the case is the same with the lesser Scale, and so the greater Scale, though it hath a greater weight than the lesser impendent upon it; so it is recompensed with a more forcible power than the less hath to sustain it, and so there is an *equipondium*.

But although this seems marvellous, that the *potentia* of a Pillar of Air from the Earth to the Base of the Scale should counterpoise so vast a weight, as what is incumbent upon it, yet to serve the turn, and to give a Solution by the weight and power of the Air to maintain the cohesion of two polished Marbles (*de quo infra*) this reason is given, that as there is a vast weight of Atmosphere upon the Scale, so there is the same Gravitation of Air round about it all, but what is just under the Scale, and this impending Air round about the sides of the Scale, as it is so much, so it

is



is somewhat weightier than that which impends upon the Scale, for this reaches only to the Scale, and that reacheth somewhat farther in length, even by so much as the distance is between the Earth and the Scale, and this doth so gird and help in that short Column of Air subjacent to the Scale, that it is as firm a Pedestal or *potentia* to sustain the Scale, and to press it up by the auxiliary Columns of Air, that supply and support it, as the impending Column is to depress it, and so between both there is an *equipondium*. So that in all cases, as well in Air as Water, the subjected Column sustaining and impelling upwards, and the *potentia* thereof is of equal force to the *pondus* of the superior Column, depressing the upper Superficies of the intermediate Body.

And the same they suppose in Water, the instances whereof is the Valve, and some other instances; but of these in the former Chapter.

And now upon this Supposition of the *potentia sustinens* of the recoiling Pillar, as I may call it, sustaining and impelling

74 Observations touching the

pulling up the lower Superficies of the body, they have raised most marvellous Paradoxes and Consequences, namely, that if a Millstone were by some art suspended in the Air, if it were possible that the Pillar of Air incumbent upon it were either wholly taken away, or deprived of all Gravitation, this Millstone would be sustained by the subjected Column of Air, and possibly carried up much higher; yea, and if a long Column of Brass were let down deep enough into the Ocean, they assign a depth, at which the Column of Brass would sink no lower, but be sustained by that marvellous *potentia* of the recoiling or subjected Column of Water: things that I confess are wittily deduced, and consequential enough upon their *postulata* admitted, but such as are warily enough propounded, because impossible to be tried.

But in answer to this Question likewise, I say this will be found untrue, and therefore although the Consequences are Logically enough inferred upon such premises, yet the thing proving false

false in the event, the Premises, Principles, and *Postulat* at themselves must needs be fictitious and vain.

Suppose therefore two small Cylinders of Brass, each of 4l weight, but the one of two Inches diameter, the other of one Inch diameter, and therefore about double the length of the other, were weighed in a vessel of Water by a pair of Scales, with the Superficies of each just even with the Superficies of the Water in the vessel, they will each lose a just equal portion of their weight by the thickness of the *medium*, and will still hold their *equipondium*, yet the imaginary column of Air impending upon the two-Inches Cylinder above treble the weight to that impending upon the one Inch diameter, and here is no recoiling Column of Air to sustain them.

But I easily foresee the Answer to this Instance, and therefore I gave it to let in what I have to say; for it will be said, that the Gravitation of the Air upon the residue of the Water, gives a greater concrete weight to the Water, by so much as the Column of Air, commensurate



76 **O**bservations touching the

surate to the Superficies of the Water, adds to it, and so both Air and Water make one common pressure, and consequently the recoiling or sustaining Column of Water, hath as great a *potentia sustinens* as the weight of both put together can contribute. But to avoid this *Effugium*, first I took two Brass Cylinders, weighing each four pound, but one of double the others diameter, I took then two Laton-Tubes of 6 Inches diameter, and about two foot in length, closed at both ends, only in the centre of the close Cover of the one I caused a hole to be made, commensurate to the Superficies of the Cylinder of Brass of 2 inches diam. & a like hole in the other, commensurate to the cylinder of Brass, of 1 Inch diameter, so that they might just play upon them without any considerable distance between the weights, and the concavity of the holes. I then filled the vessels brim full of water, & weighed the Cylinders with their Superficies just equal with the Water and Cover. Here could be no Gravitation of the Air upon any part of the Water, but only upon the

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*Torricellian Experiment.* 77

the Weights, so that the Column of Air, pressing upon the greater Weight, being, as is supposed, above treble to what presseth upon the less, must needs drive it down, because the recoyling Pillar of Water, could not counter-vail such a disparity of *pondus* of Air.

And yet I found not above one Grain odds in their Weights, the broader weighing about a thin Groat more than the narrower.

But because I would have no evasion, by supposing that that small distance between the Weights and the Hole, might give some more help and strength to the sustaining Pillar of Water by letting in some Air to lean upon the Water, thereby to enable it to keep the *Equipondium*. I took a very flat peece of Lead, with a hole in the Centre, no bigger than would let through freely that small Packthrid that suspended the Weight, and letting the Thrid through the hole, and pressing the Lead so exactly close, that no Air can pass to press upon the Water and Weight, but just that little passage for the

78 **O**bservations touching the  
the Thrid which impended also in the  
very middle of the Weight, and there-  
by covering the Orifice, fitted to the  
one Inch weight; yet the *Equipondium*  
between both, continued exactly the  
same, as when both holes were left  
open, one of two Inches, the other of  
one Inch Diameter, at both times, the  
Vessels being perfectly full of Water.

And yet according to the supposition,  
the supposed Weight of the Pillar of  
Atmosphere impendent upon the two  
Inch Weight, could not be so little as  
200 pound, and the weight of Air,  
pressing upon the Centre of the lesser  
Weight, and no where else, being not  
a quarter of an Inch Diameter, could  
not in proportion, weigh the 100<sup>th</sup> part  
of 200 pound, according to the suppo-  
sition of this new Philosophy: And all  
this while the entire Superficies of the  
Water, discharged of all manner of  
Gravitation of superior Air, by the  
close cover that every where covered  
its Superficies.

I do not understand what evasion can  
be made, unless they will suppose that  
the



the little hole for the Thrid, might by a strange Contagion, infect the entire Body of Water, with a new Gravitation, which nevertheless is so impossible, that it deserves no other answer than what our common sense allows; for this little pertuse, letting in that little Column of Ayr of a quarter of an Inch Diameter, impends not upon the Water, but is wholly received by the Brass Weights, upon whose Centres it leans.

So that the imaginary repercussive Column bearing up the Body into an Equilibrium, with the impendent Column of Air (admitting the Air should have such a Gravitation downward) must needs be a fiction upon a fiction, and therefore upon the whole matter laid together, both are fictions, and neither true.

2. But yet farther, if such a pressure upward of the inferior, or (as I have called it) the recoyling Column of Air should be admitted, it doth wholly destroy the supposition of Gravitation of the superior Column of Air, because  
in

80 Observations touching the

in truth it renders the superior and inferior Columns of Air in a perfect *equilibrium*, every lower portion of Air checking and counterpressing the superior, with the same strength or *potentia sustinens*, that the superior portion chargeth the inferior with a *pondus deprimens*.

(Fig. 5.) For suppose in the 5<sup>th</sup> Figure *AB* were a Cylinder or Column of Air, reaching from *A* the Superficies of the Atmosphere, to *B* the Superficies of the Earth, and of 12 Inches diameter. If the portion *BEF* press with an equal *potentia* upward to the portion *AEF*, pressing with an equal weight downward; then these two portions of Air must be at rest, and *in equilibrio*, and so far every divisible part of every other portion of the entire Column. And if the superior and inferior parts of the Air be by this means *in equilibrio*, there can be no more Gravitation downward than upward; for all motion must arise from a disparity of weight and weight, or power and power, or power and weight. And therefore it is that al-  
though

Torricellian Experiment. 81

although one Scale be charged with a hundred pounds weight, and the other Scale be charged with as much, the Scales will be at rest, because *in equilibrio*; and by the advantage though but of a Grain of weight, added to one Scale, they will be put into motion, but not till then.

But then it will be required to make out that, upon the Supposition, that in our first Instance the greater Scale is kept *in equilibrio* by the *pondus* of the superior, and the *potentia* of the inferior Air; that there will be the same *equilibrium* between the *pondus*  $A E F$ , and the *potentia*  $E F B$ , upon or in every imaginary Superficies of the Column of the Atmosphere; as  $E F C D$ , or any other imaginary superficent, interjacent between the top of the Atmosphere  $A$ , and the Superficies of the Earth at  $B$ .

And surely there need not be much pains taken to prove this: for it is not the interposition of the Scale that makes the *equilibrium*, but it is the counterpressure of the superior and inferior

G part



82 Observations touching the

part of the aerial Cylinder, which must needs be as effectual, and of the same kind and strength, if that Scale were removed out of the way; for though the interposition of the Scale hinder the contiguity of the upper and lower Cylinder, yet it contributes nothing to the Gravitation of the one, or pressure upward of the other.

Upon all which large digression, it seems to me that their very answer given, that the equal Gravitation of each Scale, the greater and the lesser, is by the equal pressure, viz. by reason the greater Scale as it is pressed by a greater aerial Cylinder, is also supported by a reversed or recoiling Cylinder of Air of equal sustaining force, though not of equal length with the superior, destroys totally their whole Supposition of the Gravitation of the Air, and renders their contrivance of the investigation of the weight of the Atmosphere, by the *equipondium* thereof, to a Cylinder of 29 Inches of Mercury, utterly ineffectual.

And this it seems to me must be admitted,

### Torricellian Experiment. 83

mitted, namely that the inferior Cylinder of Air recoiling and returning from the Earth, or any other solid Base, doth in truth sustain the impending *pondus* of the same Cylinder, and so there is an *aequipondium* in any given or imaginary Superficies of Air between the *pondus deprimens* and the *potentia sustinens*, in the same perpendicular Pillar or Column: and so the Air becomes not heavy in it self, but yet that it gravitates entirely upon the Base, which is as it were the common *hypomoclian* that receives the impression of the impendent Air, and remits the *potentia* upward in counterpoise to it.

But then they say, that where in that Pillar of Atmosphere the Contiguity between the superior and inferior Column is interrupted by some intervening body: as in the first instance, by the intervention of the Scale the *aequipondium* between the *pondus deprimens*, and the *potentia sustinens* of the aerial Pillar, is wrought by another means, namely the imaginary Pillars of Atmosphere circumjacent to that intercepting

84 Observations touching the

ting body: as suppose the three Columns of Atmosphere  $AMBNC O$ , and the Column  $B$  were cut off at  $D$  by any solid body (suppose the Scales, in the first instance;) yet the two adjoining Columns gravitate upon the inferior Pillar of Air (suppose it transverse,) and so give it as vigorous a repercussion as if it were in the same perpendicular Column: as in the figure,

Suppose  $BH$  be a Column of Air, impending upon the cube  $H$ , of six Inches square;  $H$  to be (for instance) a cube of Brass, some way there sustained;  $EN$  be the subjected Column of the same base, resting upon the Superficies of the Earth at  $N$ . Suppose also  $AD m$ , and  $CF o$ , be two lateral Columns of Air, pressing  $g$  upon a lateral or transversal Pedestal of Air  $G I K L$ , upon an imaginary Superficies, contiguous to the lower Base of the cube  $H$ , namely  $G D F I$ ; here the Cylinders  $HD$  and  $CF$  press so strongly upon the entire transversal Base  $G D E F G K L M N O$ , that the portion thereof  $EN$  is so strongly bound together, compressed, and fortified by the



*Torricellian Experiment.* 85

the columns  $AD$  and  $CF$ , that it sustains the cube  $H$  as forcibly as it would have sustained  $BH$  an entire Column of Air, and so makes an *equipondium* and sustentation of the cube  $H$ .

(Fig. 6.) To examine the truth of this Supposition, let us suppose in this,  $A$  to be the base of the cube  $BCD$ , and  $E$  to be the bases of four Pillars or Columns of Air, contiguous to the four sides of this cube, equal in Base to it, and all these Bases, both of the cube  $A$  and of the four collateral Pillars of Air, to be upon the Superficies of the Earth. If  $A$  be removed higher, as to  $H$  in the former figure, the intermediate space between  $H$  (in the former figure) and the Superficies of the Earth, *viz.* the space  $HN$ , must be furnished with Air; now the Air, that must supply that space, cannot be immediately thrust in from the Pillar superior to the cube, *viz.*  $HB$ , because the descent of that Pillar of Air is obstructed by the interposition of the cube  $H$ , whereupon it is bot-tomed. Therefore of necessity each of the collateral Pillars of Air,  $BCDE$ ,

86 Observations touching the

must thrust in an equal portion of their stock of Air, to supply the *interstitium* of  $HN$  in the former figure; and then they will want so much of their Pillar, as will make good what they have thus contributed to fill that space. And this they are to borrow from the Pillar  $HB$ , that lay perpendicular to the cube, which now at this Elevation is  $BH$ : for as the cube it gradually raiseth from  $N$  towards  $H$ , the Pillar of Air incumbent upon it must be displaced, and what is so displaced, must be thrust into the lateral Pillars  $BCDE$ , to supply what they contribute to the relict space  $HN$ : and so in every Elevation higher of the cube  $H$ , so much space as it leaves, must be immediately thrust in from the collateral Pillars adjacent to the Tube, and must be made good in the same moment from the Air, thrust out of the perpendicular Pillar  $BH$ , by the gradual Elevation of the cube to supply the collateral Pillars. By this process of one part of the Air into another, to accommodate the motion of its parts, it seems evident, that there is not  
that

that pressure of one part of the Air upon another, nor of all upon the common Base, that should be like so many Wedges to keep every portion of Air just in that place it hath; or by Gravitation of one part upon another, to keep all the parts so tight one to another, as the *Supposition* imports. For then certainly there could be no motion or transmigration of one part of the Air into another, as we see there is not only in the Instance above given, but in a thousand more. The most forcible Winds could no more remove one portion of Air out of its place, then they could remove a Pyramid of *Memphis*, if this *Supposition* were true.

Therefore there seems to be very little ground for the late Masters of Experiments, to lay any weight of proof for their supposed Gravitation of the Air, upon the *Torricellian Experiment*; which, by what I have said, and shall hereafter say more at large, depends upon a clear other Solution.

And thus far in general, touching the Gravitation of Air in Air, or upon



88 **Observations touching the**

any other Bodies ; wherein I have been the longer, because I shall perchance hereafter have recourse to some of the things said in this Chapter.

**CHAP. V.**

*Concerning the Gravitation of heavier Fluids upon those that are lighter.*

**T**Here be those that contend, that there is no Body positively light, but only comparatively, and that the Ascension of any Bodies is not from the intrinsic nature or quality of the Bodies themselves, but because others that are more heavy than those are, and more vigorous in their descent, do drive up those that are less heavy, by taking their places, and so force them to mount higher.

Whatever may be said in this respect, in relation to Air, yet surely it holds true in other grosser Fluids, and sometimes in solid Bodies also: Oyl is truly heavy, and yet driven higher by Water,

*Torricellian Experiment.* 89

ter, which is ordinarily heavier than Oyl. And the same is true in relation to Water and Mercury, the latter driving up the former though a heavy Body, because not so heavy as Mercury. As I have before said, there is a double Disparity or *equipondium* of heavy Bodies; one in relation to their intrinsic or specific weight, another in relation to the external or quantitative weight. Water is specifically heavier than Oyl, and Mercury than Water; whence it comes to pass, that a bulk of Mercury weighs more than a bulk of Water equal to the bulk of Mercury; one square Inch of Mercury, counterpoising near 14 square Inches of Water. But yet the bulk or quantity of Water may be so much, or so great, that it may overpoise the Mercury, two ounces of Water necessarily being more, and weighing double to an ounce of Mercury, though specifically heavier than Water.

And therefore in the consideration of the Gravitation of heavy Fluids upon lighter, we are to take these two parts into consideration. *viz.*

1. The

90 Observations touching the

1. The Gravitation of a Body, specifically heavier, upon or in a Body specifically lighter; as the Gravitation of Mercury upon Water, or Water upon Oyl or Air.

2. The Gravitation of a Body specifically lighter, yet in quantity or extrinsically heavier than the Fluid it presseth; as two pound of Oyl upon a pound of Water, and the like.

As to the former of these, there seem to be four ways, wherein the Gravitation or pressure of a Fluid upon a Fluid, specifically lighter, sensibly is exercised. viz. 1. By way of Penetration, 2. by way of perpendicular, or other descending Depression, 3. by way of lateral Pressure, 4. by way of Elevation of the lighter Body.

For the first, if a cube of 12 Inches square be filled 9 Inches with Oyl; and the other three be filled up with Water, though for the present the Water gently poured on will float upon the Oyl, yet in a little time it will penetrate through it, and get under it, and the 9 Inches of Oyl will swim upon it, pressing



*Torricellian Experiment.* 91

ing its Superficies equally every where.

And so if a *lumen* be at the bottom of the cube, the Water first, and then the Oyl, will gravitate upon the Air, and press through it.

But if the top of the cube be closely covered, so that Air cannot get in above the Water, the Oyl will not descend through the *lumen*, the reason whereof is hereafter explained.

For the second, it is very plain, that the heavier Fluid will in some Instances press upon all the lighter, by a depression where it can have way; sometimes immediately, sometimes mediately, *viz.* notwithstanding the interposition of another body. For instance,

If an empty Bottle or Glass-bubble be placed in a vessel of Water, at a small depth, the Air included in the Bottle or Bubble, being a Body lighter than Water, will mount up to the top, if it be not kept down: for a small pressure of Water, though it press upon the included Air as much as it can, yet it cannot compress the Air so much, as to drive into it a quantity of Water, that may  
make

92 **Observations touching the**

make the Bottle and included Water equal in weight, or more in weight than the like bulk of simple Water; but if more Water be poured into the vessel, whereby a weight of Water incumbent upon the narrow mouth of the Bottle or Bubble, is sufficient to compress the included Air, to such a contraction, as may admit Water enough to make the Bottle, with the admitted Water, to counterpoise more than a like quantity of simple Water, the Bottle or Bubble will subside, and sink to the bottom again; if the vessel be unladen considerably of its Water, whereby the Air included in the vessel being under a less pressure, can expand it self to its natural dimension, and thereby thrust out of the Bottle so much of the included Water, as may render the Bottle, with the included Water, lighter than a like quantity or bulk of simple Water, equal to the bulk of the Bottle, the Bottle will emerge again.

This is the Experiment mentioned by *Shottus*, in his *Magia hydraulica*, parte 3, l. 5, problem. 3. and the excellent

Author

*Torricellian. Experiment.* 93

Author of *Hydrostatical Paradoxes*, pag. 16, 53, 153. and elsewhere. The Experiment is certainly true, but the Solution thereof, and the Conclusion deduced from it, of the Gravitation of the upper parts of the Water upon the lower, is as I think wholly mistaken; for the reason of it is not from the imaginary Gravitation of Water upon Water, but of Water upon Air, which being a lighter body than Water, and capable of compression into a narrower compass, by the Gravitation of Water upon it, sustains that weight of the Water, and is compressed by it, and under it: it is not an effect of Gravitation of Water upon Water, which is of equal intrinsic or Specific Gravity, but of Water upon Air, which is a lighter Fluid, and compressible. Again, this Gravitation of heavier Fluids upon lighter, though not immediately contiguous, is plain by this instance.

If a Cylindrical vessel of Water be of 6 Inches diameter, and there be a Rundle of Wood specifically lighter than Water of five Inches  $\frac{3}{4}$  diameter placed



94 Observations touching the

placed at the very bottom of it, the Water will drive it up to the Superficies of it, because it is a Body specifically lighter than the Water. But if there be a hole of five Inches diameter in the bottom of that vessel, and the Rundle be placed upon that hole, so that it somewhat overlaps the hole, so that the Water cannot pass out of it, and then it be filled up with Water; the Rundle will gravitate upon that hole, and the incumbent Cylinder of Water, commensurate in Base to that Rundle, so hard and close, that it requires a weight in a pair of Scales, neer commensurate to the weight of the impending Cylinder of Water, to raise it from the bottom; and the reason is; because the Rundle being the *Operculum* of that hole, through which the Water should pass into the lighter Fluid, the Air, and so is the impediment of the Waters passage, it gravitates upon it, because it hath mediately a lighter Element upon which it gravitates, namely the Air. It is *Stevinus* his Experiment, in his *practical Hydrostaticks*, upon his 10. Proposition.

And

*Torricellian Experiment.* 95

And upon the same reason it is, that if a Glass-bottle filled with Sea-water, and stopped, be let down twenty fathoms into the Sea, it will not break, for it is filled with a Fluid of an equal weight, and so the external Water doth not sensibly gravitate upon it, for it hath within a sufficient power to resist the external pressure. But if it be full only of Air, and stoppt, and let down as deep by a weight appended to it, (as it must) it will be broken by the pressure and weight of the Water immediately upon the included Air, which is lighter than so much Water, and so it presseth upon it, to drive it up, and crusheth the glass into it.

And this I take to be one reason, though not the only reason of the Experiment of the Valve, and likewise of Oyl thrusting up Water into a Tube, though of a specifically heavier consistence; and possibly may contribute something to the instance in the fourth Chapter, whereby a Syphon filled up with Mercury to the height of the shorter leg, and immersed in Water, the Mercury in the shorter leg will subside a little, and ascend in the longer

96 **Observations touching the**

ger leg, although the Mercury be a Body  
14 times heavier than Water; for in  
these instances; though the immediate  
contiguity be of the heavier Body to  
the lighter, as Oyl to Water, and Water  
to Mercury, yet in as much as the Mer-  
cury in both leggs is in *equilibrio*, and  
the Air is behind the Mercury in the  
longer leg of the Syphon, and behind  
the Water in the Tube, the Water in  
the one case, and the Oyl in the other,  
doth in truth gravitate upon that Air  
mediately and effectively, rather than  
upon the intermediate heavier Fluid,  
especially if the body of the Air be any  
whit lower than the Superficies of the  
Water.

And thus far touching the Gravita-  
tion or pressure of a Fluid specifically  
heavier, upon a Fluid specifically lighter.  
I should now come to consider the pres-  
sure of a Fluid specifically lighter, yet  
with an excess of extrinseck or quantita-  
tive weight upon a Fluid specifically  
heavier; as two pound of Water upon  
a pound of Mercury, or two pound of  
Oyl upon a pound of Water: but be-  
cause



cause this and some other considerations, for the better clearing of the matters contained in this Chapter, may occur in the next, I shall remit it thither.

## CHAP. VI.

*Concerning the Pressure or Gravitation of lighter Fluids, upon those that are specifically heavier.*

**I**T is certain, that every Body, whether the fluid, or solid, incumbent upon another, though that Other be a thousand times intrinsically and also extrinsically heavier than the incumbent Body doth gravitate and press upon it.

And therefore if we should suppose the Air to have a weight, but a thousand times less than the like portion of Water, a portion of one square foot of Air incumbent upon the Ocean, would have some pressure upon it: somewhat like the Problem that passed in the Affirmative among Fresh-men in the University, *That if a Horse had as much as he could carry, the addition of the weight of the thousandth part of a Feather*

H

ther

98 **O**bservations touching the  
*ther would break his back.*

But this is not the pressure or Gravitation I am speaking of, but such a Gravitation or pressure, as would put the subjected heavier Fluid into a sensible motion, or change of place or situation.

In a pair of artificial Scales, a pound of Feathers or Water, will equiponderate a pound of Gold or Mercury, and 2 pound of Feathers will preponderate a pound of Gold or Mercury, notwithstanding the great disparity of their intrinsic weight.

And so in a Ballance that seems more natural, if a Syphon of half an Inch diameter, with one legg of six Inches long, and the other of thirty four Inches long, or more, be filled with Mercury to the height of the shorter legg, and then stopping the Orifice of the shorter legg with the finger, fill the longer legg with water, and then opening the Orifice of the shorter legg, the Water in the longer legg, though specifically lighter than the Mercury, will drive out the Mercury out of the Syphon, because the extrinsic or quantitative weight

weight of so much Water exceeds the extrinsick or quantitative weight of the subjacent Mercury.

If a cubick vessel be filled six Inches high with Water, and a Glass-pipe open at both ends be immersed at one end in the Water, and then superinfuse gently (to avoid disturbance) so much Oyl as will fill it up ten Inches, *viz.* four Inches of Oyl, and six of Water, the Pipe will be filled with Water neer to the level of the Superficies of the Oyl, but not quite level to the Superficies of the Oyl, it will want so much, as the like quantity of Water in the Pipe, is heavier than the like quantity of Oyl.

But if a Pipe filled with Oyl, and the upper end stopt with a finger, whereby the Oyl remains suspended in the Tube, or Pipe, and then the open end be immersed in the Water, the Oyl, while it obtains a Superficies in the Pipe considerably higher than the Water in the vessel, will subside 'till it come to such an Elevation above the Superficies of the Water, as is proportionable to the degree of specifical Lightness that it

H 2 obtains



obtains more than the like quantity of Water. And 'till then it subsides into the Water, because it hath a greater proportion of accidental weight by its so great Elevation above the Superficies of the Water: for the Elevation of one fluid body above another, gives the greater strength and swifter motion to its descent: whereby though a lighter body, it conquers the resistance of the Water of a lower Superficies.

Which is the reason, why a Tube of Water, four foot high, casts out more Water in the same portion of time, through the same *lumen*, than a vessel of the same diameter, and but two foot high, as I shall hereafter more at large observe.

And this is the reason, why if a small Glass-Tube of six Inches long, be filled with Water, and the upper end being stopped with the finger, whereby the Water is suspended in the Pipe, and then the lower end being immersed in a vessel of Water six foot deep, and then the upper end unstopped, the whole Water in the Pipe will empty it self, 'till

'till it attain a Superficies equal with the Water in the vessel, and will not be kept suspended in the Pipe by the resistance of the Water in the vessel, because if it obtain never so little more height in the Pipe than in the vessel, it hath a greater force to press downward, than the Water in the vessel hath strength to resist it.

If a Tube stopd at one end be filled with Mercury, and inverted in the open Air, the Air will ascend and terebrate through the Mercury as fast as that descends; so there is a kind of pressure of the Air *ascendendo* upon the Mercury, and thereby both the Air and Mercury obtain their several natural motions, this *descendendo*, and that *ascendendo*, whereby Vacuity is prevented, and the continuity of the parts of the Universe preserved.

But if the Tube be very small, so that the Air cannot make its way through the lower orifice, to gratifie the Mercury with a descent, by that means the Mercury will remain suspended in the small Tube, and will not descend. The

102 Observations touching the

like will happen, if such a small Tube be inverted into Water, the smallness of the orifice not admitting the ascent of the Water to supply the space derelicted by a descent of the Mercury, the Mercury by force of the Catholick law of Nature will remain suspended, and its natural descent will be thereby superseded.

So that the pressure or Gravitation of a lighter Body upon a more gross and weighty, will be occasioned, 1. Either by the Excess of the quantity and extrinseck weight of the Fluid specifically lighter, or 2. by the advantage of its Position or Elevation above the Superficies of the grosser Fluid, or 3. by the interposition of that common law of Nature, *ut evitetur vacuum*.

I shall conclude these general Observations, touching the Gravitation of Fluids, with that of the Valve, described by the Excellent Author of *Hydrostatical Paradoxes*, cap. ultimo, which was certainly a most ingenuous Experiment, though I am not at all satisfied with the Solution he gives of it, nor the

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Consequences deduced by him from it, touching the Gravitation of Water upon Water, (I mean sensible Gravitation) of the superior parts upon the inferior parts of the Water in free water.

And I am as much dissatisfied with that obscure Solution that is given thereof by the Learned Author of the *Enchiridion Metaphysicum*.

And because in this one Experiment duly observed and improved, many of the most abstruse Conclusions of Hydrostaticks may be cleared even to sense, I shall distinctly examine it, and the *phenomena* appearing in it.

The Instrument is thus made, according to that form which I made use of.

I took a hollow Tube of Laton, closely sodered at the Sides and joynts, of 39 Inches long, two Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  in the diameter from the top to the bottom, with a Brass Valve at the end of it sodered to it, and a brass Sucker or Cover of the same fashion with those used in Pumps, only in Pumps the Cover or Sucker hath its head upward, in this Instrument the head is downward, whereby

it being inverted it falls out about an Inch below the Valve, but cannot fall out more, because stayed by the Frame of the Valve.

*Fig. 7.* This Sucker exactly covers the mouth of the Valve, that no water can come in, when the Sucker is closely strained up, by a string fastned to it in the inward pin of it, and so conveyed up through the Tubes. The Sucker thus fastned to the Valve or Box, and the Box soder'd close to the Tube, and the string conveyed up through the Tube to the open end of it, the Engin is formed according to the Figure in the Margin, representing *A* the Tube, *B* the String, *C* the brazen Box of the Valve soder'd to the Tube, *D* the Sucker or Cover of the Valve let down as low as it will go, with a Hook to hold any weight appended to it, which Sucker being strained up with the string, closely stops the lower orifice of the Tube, and Box of the Valve.

The Valve thus prepared, I strictly weighed the whole Valve, Tube, Sucker, and Thrid, with the wooden

Nut

Nut upon which to roll the string , which weighed in all three pounds, two ounces and a half , or 50 ounces and a half.

The Sucker ( for so I shall call the name of the Valve ) weighed seven ounces and one half : and I was curious in weighing these things , because the great use of my Experiments consisted in the comparison of weights of the Instruments themselves, and the Water.

I took then a great glass Tube, of about five Inches diameter, and about two foot and a half long, and filled it with Water; though I used also a Leaden vessel of six Inches diameter, and four foot long, for the immersion of my Valve, which though it were deeper, yet the Glass vessel was more accommodate to my use, and served as well, and therefore I used it, and thereupon made those several Trials.

(Fig. 8.) 1. The Tube let into the Water, with the Valve open, would freely subside to the bottom of the Water, be it never so deep, the water getting up into the cavity of the Tube: for  
the



106 **O**bservations touching the  
the *moles* of the Tube in that instance, is  
no more than the length and thickness  
of the Laton, the Brass Valve and  
Sucker; but the weight thereof being  
more than such a single *moles* of water,  
it must necessarily subside to the bottom  
of the water.

2. The Valve being drawn up, and  
sustained by the Thrid wound about  
the wooden Nut at the top of the Valve,  
whereby no water could come into  
the Tube, and then left freely to subside  
in the water, would subside to a depth  
of one and twenty Inches, and so swim  
erect in that depth of water, one and  
twenty Inches being immersed in the  
water, and eighteen Inches of the Tube  
being in the open Air, above the Su-  
perficies of the water.

And the reason is, because though  
the Laton and Brass be specifically hea-  
vier than Water, and therefore will  
sink, as in the last Instance; yet because  
now the Tube sits upon the water, as  
one entire Cylinder, and a Cylinder of  
Laton thirty nine Inches long, and two  
Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  broad filled with Air only, is  
not

not heavier than a Cylinder of Water of one and twenty Inches long, and two Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  diameter, but do equiponderate; therefore the Tube sinks no lower than one and twenty Inches to make an *equipondium* between it self and the like bulk of Water.

3. I therefore with all the exactness I could, measured the weight of the Water commensurate to a Cylinder of two Inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  diameter, and one and twenty Inches long, (the quantity of the Tube swimming in the Water.)

First therefore filling my Glass Tube very full of Water, I immersed the Valve open into one and twenty Inches deep; then at that depth lifting up the Sucker, and inclosing the one and twenty Inches of Water thus imprisoned in the Tube, and so taking it out closed; and then when out of the Glass Tube setting it to run into a vessel weighed before, I find the weight of the included Water weighed fourty and seven Ounces and half, or three pound wanting half an Ounce, which is about three Ounces less than the weight of the

the whole Instrument. And this abatement it hath for the thickness of the Tube and Valve, because the water that is pressed upon by the Tube and Valve, and so raised out of its place, is pressed up by the convex or outside of the Tube and Valve, and commensurate to it.

Therefore again straining up the string of the Valve, whereby no water could get in, and filling my Glass Tube of restagnant water to the very brim or brink of the Glass, and then I immersed my Tube into the water to one and twenty Inches depth; the Valve strained up by the string, and preserved the water that was impelled up by the immersion, and thrown over: and this I likewise exactly weighed, and found to weigh near upon the point of fifty one Ounces  $\frac{1}{2}$ , or three pound three Ounces and half, which is about an Ounce more than the weight of the Engine; which disparity might happen for want of exactness. But the summe of it is, there is no considerable difference between the weight of the whole Engine, and the weight of so much Water, as will

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countervail in quantity to so much of the Engine or mingled Cylinder of 21 Inches thereof immersed in water.

Which gives us a plain account, why and how much a Body lighter than the like quantity of water, will sit above water, and why, and how it comes to pass, that some Ships draw more water than others, and how much burthen they will bear, before they will sink, *viz.* if the Ship or Barge with all its Cavities and Lading, be not heavier than such a solid bulk of water, as equals the whole *Moles* and Cavity of the Ship or Barge, the Barge will live, though it draw water neer to the very top of the sides of the vessel. And if the Ship or vessel be lighter than such a *moles* of water as equals the whole continent of the Ship or Barge, so much of the Ship or Barge will emerge above the water. For in the instance in hand, in as much as 21 Inches of immersion of the Tube, was the product of its whole weight of three pound, two Ounces and half; and those one and twenty Inches thus immersed, were equal

110 Observations touching the

equal in weight to a bulk of Water, commensurate to that Cylinder of 21 Inches immersed, the rest of the Tube viz. 18 Inches, did stote erect upon the Water; for if it should have subsided, the moles of Water lifted up out of its place would have exceeded the weight of the whole Valve, viz. three pound, two Ounces, and half, which by the rules and Laws of *Hydrostaticks* it may not do,

4. If the Sucker be drawn up, and then immersed so low, that the portion of Water impelled up by the Tube, do exceed the weight of the Sucker, viz. 7 ounces and half, the Sucker will be sustained by the pressure of the Water upon it: as suppose in the 8<sup>th</sup> Figure it were pressed even to *LM*, or *NO*, which is nine Inches below the Superficies of the Water. And the reason is, because the Sucker is now the moveable Basis of the included Column of Air, which is a light Body, and so gravitates nothing upon the Water; and the Sucker being as it were the Basis of that Column, and moveable, weighs but seven Ounces

*Torricellian Experiment.* III

Ounces and half, and the Tube subsiding as low as *LM* or *NO*, presseth up a portion of Water of double that weight, and this portion of Water bears against the Base or Sucker more forcibly and powerfully than the Sucker can bear against it.

5. But if the weight of a *moles* of Water, commensurate to so much of the Tube as is immersed in the Water, be less than the weight of the Sucker, the Sucker by its own weight will subside, notwithstanding its immersion into Water.

By iterated Trials I found, that if I kept up the Sucker by the Thrid, and immersed it to ten Inches, or more, and let go the string, whereby the Sucker, though now at liberty, would yet not subside, but remain suspended by the pressure of the Water upon it; yet if I gently raised it up, till it came only to an immersion of four Inches and half, the Sucker would subside; wherefore closing in the included Water at that depth, by lifting up the Thrid, and so closing the Sucker, I weighed that in-

closed



closed Water, and found it just weighed as much as the Sucker, *viz.* seven Ounces and half, and there could be no considerable odds here by the thickness of the Tube, the immersed portion thereof being but small, and the sides very thin.

6. But because I would pursue the proportion to the uttermost, I kept up the Sucker with the string, 'till the Tube came to the immersion of four Inches and half, and then subsided; I then inclosed that four Inches and half of Water, and kept up the Sucker, and immersed the Tube with the inclosed four Inches and half of Water, and gently raising it up, it subsided at nine Inches immersion.

And the reason is the same as before, for the included cavity of nine Inches, had in it four Inches and half of Air, which weighed nothing, and four Inches and half of Water, which as before is shewn, weighs seven Ounces and half, and the weight of the Valve which weighs also seven Ounces and half, the whole weight of the included Air, Water, and Valve, weighing only fifteen Ounces

*Torricellian Experiment.* 113

Ounces, and a Column of Water of nine Inches high, and two Inches and half broad, equal to the cavity of the immersed nine Inches of the Tube, would have been of the same weight with the four Inches and half of included Water, and the Sucker, whose weight is now to make good the uppermost four Inches and half of Airy space, and so there is an *equipondium* between the included four Inches and half of included Water, together with the weight of the Sucker to a Cylinder of Water of nine Inches long, and two Inches and half broad, commensurate to the like cavity of the Tube, and the like quantity of nine Inches of Water, impelled out of its place by nine Inches of the Tube immersed below the Superficies of the Water.

And the same rule and proportion will hold upon the like quantity of more Water taken in, and a deeper immersion, allowing the same thing for that thickness of the sides of the Tube, which upon a deep immersion is more considerable than upon an immersion of four Inches and half.

113

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7. And

# 114 Observations touching the

7. And although I did not make an actual trial how much weight in an empty Tube, deeply immerfed, would be fustained by the Sucker without fubfiding; yet by this proportion it is eafie to be calculated, *viz.* that the Tube being kept empty, and immerfed to any depth below four Inches and a half, the Sucker will fustain without fubfiding fuch a weight, as is equal to a portion of Water commensurate in bulk to fo much of that empty Cylinder in the Tube, as is deprefsed below the Superficies of the vefsel of reftagnant water.

So that if the empty Tube will fustain feven Ounces and half (the weight of the Sucker,) at four Inches and half immersion, it will fustain fifteen Ounces at nine Inches immersion, thirty Ounces at eighteen Inches immersion, fixty Ounces at thirty fix Inches of immersion; for an empty Cylinder of thirty fix Inches long and two Inches and half broad, will contain a Cylinder of Water of fixty Ounces weight, allowing fomewhat as before, for the thicknets of the fides of the Tube.

8. In



*Torricellian Experiment.* 115

8. In this it appears that the Water doth not gravitate upon the Water, but gravitates upon a Body lighter than it self, though this Gravitation be immediately upon a Body as heavy or heavier than it self. When there is nothing but Air in the Tube, the Sucker is the moveable Basis of that Air, and it gravitates immediately upon the Sucker, but mediately and remotely upon the Air above it, when there is a little column of Air in the top of the Tube, and below the Superficies of the Water, and under that a column of Water, and under that the Sucker. If the whole Concrete be lighter than so much Water, it gravitates upon the Sucker, Water, and Air, because though the Brass be specifically heavier than Water, and the Water over it specifically of an equal weight with Water; yet the quantitative or extrinseck weight of both is less than the weight of so much Water as is equal to a Bulk or Cylinder of Water, entirely commensurate to the quantity of the Air, Water, and Sucker, below the Superficies of the Water.

I 2 9. That

116 Observations touching the

9. That when a Body lighter than so much water is within the compass of the Superficies of the body of restagnant water, the water presseth upon it upward, impelling it up, as here upon an immersion of the Valve laden with four Inches and half of water, and likewise with the weight of the Sucker, into nine Inches of water, an equal quantity of water to the *moles* of the immersed Tube, *viz.* nine Inches sustains the Sucker, notwithstanding its own weight and the weight of four Inches and half of water incumbent upon it, because those two weigh but fifteen Ounces, and nine Inches of the exterior water weighs as much, and so there is an *aquipondium* between the *potentia sustinens*, and the *pondus deprimens*.

CHAP.

## CHAP. VII.

*Concerning the Space derelicted by the descent of the Mercury in the Torricellian Experiment, and what it is not, or what it is that fills it.*

HAVING gone through the two premised Considerations, preliminary to this Inquiry, I now come to the third General, namely what it is that fills the space derelicted by the descending Mercury in the Tube. And first I shall consider, whether it be a Space purely void of any Body. 2. If it hath some Body that fills that Space, I shall consider what it is not that fills it. 3. I shall consider what it is that most probably may be thought to fill it.

First therefore I say it is not Nothing, or a pure Vacuity, but it is some corporeal substance that succeeds in the head of the Tube, derelicted by the Mercury.

And here 1. I shall not enter into  
I 3 any



118 **Observations touching the**

any large debate touching the possibility or impossibility of interspersed or coacervated vacuities in any parts of the Universe; neither 2. shall I insist upon those obscure evidences of the inexistence of a Body in that derelicted space; as namely the communication of Sounds, or the reception of Light, or transmission of Colours, or other visible *species* in or from it. But 3. I shall ground my Conclusion from those more sensible and apparent *Phænomena* which do evince it; namely, those sensible plain Effects in that seeming empty Space, which could never be produced but by the contiguity and presence of some corporeal substance, filling that supposed empty space.

1. It is most evident to any man's sense that will but try it, that if the Tube be open at both ends, and filled up with Mercury, and then one end stopped with the finger, and the other end inverted and immersed in the restagnant Mercury, whereby it descends from the top of the Tube, a strong and sensible Attraction is wrought upon the pulp of the

*Torricellian Experiment.* 119

the upper finger that closeth it, which continues and grows more and more forcible, sensible, and evident, the farther the Mercury is removed from the upper end, and approaching to its usual station of 29 Inches.

This Attraction is impossible to be without the contiguity of some Body to the pulp of the finger, which cannot be the Mercury it self, for That in a Tube of four Foot long is removed above a Foot distant from the finger, by that time it comes to its station; yet all this while the strong suction upon the pulp of the finger continues.

And they that go about to tell us, that it is not Attraction or Suction by any power within the Tube, but by the pulsion of the incumbent column of Air, need no other confutation than their own sense to assure them the contrary; for most evidently the force that the finger feels is from within, and not from without: and this Solution by Pulsion, is given only to gratifie that imaginary Supposition that some have entertained of the Aery Column, whereof in due time.

120 Observations touching the

2. The instance of *Hanoratus Fabri* in the 6<sup>th</sup> of his *Physical Dialogue*, (though not tryed by my self, yet asserted to be tryed by him) puts it out of question. If at the upper end of the Tube there be fixed a folded Paper, which may be extended by any force, but otherwise contracting it self (in the manner of Paper-Lanthorns made by School-boys), this *plicata charta* will by the subsiding of the Mercury be unfolded and extended, which could not be, but by the contiguity of some Body unto it.

3. The instance given by *Linus*, and improved by *Fabri*, *ubi supra*, of an empty Bladder close tyed, and fastned to the upper end and the inside of the Tube, extended after the descent of the Mercury, and again contracting it self to its former dimension by the inclination of the Tube, makes it plain, that this Extention is the effect of some included Body in that relict space, which is not the bare gross body of the Mercury, which is removed a Foot or more below it, and in which there is not so much as pretended to be any Magnetick quality.



lity in relation to the Bladder.

And they that tell us it is the Elatery of the Air included in the Bladder, that extends it by a natural expansion, tell us an invention fitted to serve the Supposition of the prodigious natural Elatery of uncompress'd Air; whereof hereafter.

It is true, that if this Bladder hath any little orifice, or hole open in it, the distention will not ensue; but the reason thereof is evident, (not upon their Supposition of the impediment of the natural Elater of the Air included in the Bladder,) but because in that case the Attraction is made as well upon the inside of the Bladder through the orifice, as upon the outside, and so the Bladder obtains the same consistence as at first; but where there is no orifice, the Attraction can only be but upon the outside of the Bladder, upon which there necessarily follows an Extension of the Bladder, and a necessary Consequent thereof is a Dilatation and Expansion of that little particle of Air included in it, to the uttermost dilatation  
that

122 **Observations touching the**

that that attractive force can give it, or produce in it, which is not by natural Elasticity, but by forcible Tension.

Upon these and the like sensible and plain Instances it seems undeniable by any, that will not abandon his own sense, that it is not Nothing that is in that derelicted space, but it is some bodily substance; for otherwise it were impossible that those, and the like sensible effects could be produced: for regularly, all natural bodily effects are wrought by a contact of some Active body upon the Patient.

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**CHAP. VIII.**

*Concerning the Body supplying the derelicted Space in the top of the Tube, and first what it is not.*

**I**N the former Chapter I have concluded, that it is some corporeal Substance in the space derelicted by the Mercury in the top of the Tube, though not conspicuous to the sight; and now

I shall consider first what it is not, and  
2. what it seems most probably to be.

There are two general Opinions touching it: one that supposeth it is some Body that comes *de foris* into that derelicted space; and those again fall into several Opinions; some suppose it to be the forreign Air that pervades either the Pores of the Glass, or the Mercury; others that it is *Æther*, or Ethereal matter, or (which is a differing kind of Explication of the same thing) that it is *des Cartes* his *materia subtilis*, or his Third Element, the *ramenta* or filings of Atomical Bodies. The other general Opinion is, that it is a bodily substance, not coming *de foris*, but arising from the included Mercurial Body.

Now as to the former of these general Suppositions that it comes *de foris*, I shall discharge the question from that Supposition of *des Cartes* his *materia subtilis*, for there is no probable evidence of any such Principle, it being only an imaginary substitution; and if it be any thing besides imagination, it seems to be but Air, or at most that subtler part  
of



of the Universe called *Aether*, which possibly may be nothing else but the subtler and more refined parts of the Air, disgrossed of those vapours or *Effluvia*, which obtain ordinarily in the inferior parts of the Air, commonly called the Atmosphere.

And therefore one method of discussion of this question will possibly be applicable to both these Suppositions, of the admission of forreign Air or *Aether* into the derelicted space in the Tube above the Mercury.

If therefore it be forreign Air or *Aether* that occupies that place, it must be upon one of these accounts, viz. either that the Air or *Aether*, upon the account of its own subtlety and tenuity, freely and of its own accord pervades the Glass or the Body of the subsiding Mercury, and so takes up the derelicted room; or else that although of its own accord it would not penetrate through either of those two Bodies, yet that it is as it were forcibly strained through the pores of the Glass or Mercury, and by the subsiding of the Mercury, and the

resistence of Nature against Vacuity, percolated into that vacant space.

As to the former of these Solutions, it seems altogether unreasonable to imagine any free or unconstrained penetration of the Air, or *Aether*, into that space: for although the Glass, and likewise the Mercury are not altogether destitute of Pores, yet they do not run in a straight uninterrupted line, but are crossed and obstructed by interposed filaments, that must necessarily stop the free passage of the Air or *Aether* through them, so that they are not wholly pervious to those Bodies.

And that this is so, appears by this one instance, which is as good as a thousand.

If it were true, that the Air or *Aether* did freely pass through the supposed pores of the Glass or Mercury, the Mercury would never be suspended at twenty nine Inches, but would wholly sink into the vessel or restagnant Mercury, for the insinuation of the Air or *Aether* through the Glass or Mercury, would supply the vacuity, as well below twenty

ty nine Inches as above, and so accommodate the derelicted space in all its Evacuation, as well as in part, and likewise would accommodate the Mercury in its natural descent without any inconvenience; and yet we find, that at twenty nine Inches the Meccury keeps up, and subsides not.

And that which puts it out of question, that the natural irruption of the Air or *Aether* fills not this Space, is this: let but the least orifice, no bigger than the point of a small Needle be made in the top of the Glas Tube, the Mercury would entirely descend, and not be sustained at twenty nine Inches, because here is an admission of forreign Air to supply the space derelicted by the Mercury, as fast as it descends. And the same effect would follow, if the Air or *Aether* did penetrate through the small pores of the Glas or Mercury. And since we see it doth not obtain that effect, we have reason unquestionably to conclude, it hath not any admission *ab extra* through those supposed pores of either of those Bodies.

It



It remains therefore to be considered, whether that by the great contention of Nature against Vacuity, and the forcible stress of the Mercury on its descent downward, there be not a kind of forcible straining of some Aery or Ethereal Particles through the Glass, or at least through the Mercury, which is partly expoled to the external Air.

I answer, first, as touching the permeating of Air or *Aether* through the Glass; it seems utterly impossible, for the reason before given. Indeed the vigor of Light or Fire penetrates the Glass, not (as it seems) by any transition of any Corporeal Substance, but only of a *vis*, *virtus*, or *vigor*, which communicates the quality of *lumen* or *calor* to the Body that it finds there, but conveys not any Corporeal Substance transmitted through the Glass.

Secondly, as touching the supposed straining of the Air or *Aether* through the Mercury, and discharging it in the summity of the Tube: I must needs say, that in some instances the forreign Air will make a visible perforation and tran-

transition through the body of Mercury, as well as of Water.

If a Tube of Glass, sealed at one end, be filled with Water, or Mercury, and then inverted in the free Air, (unless the Tube be extremely small) the Mercury will subside and descend by the sides of the Tube, and the Air ascend through it in a Pillar or Bubbles in the midst, in the very same successive order as the Mercury descends; the Mercury thus laterally descending, making way for the ascent of the Air, and the Air in the same successive moments ascending, filling the room relict by the Mercury: and this ascent of the Air is evident and conspicuous to the Eye.

But in the matter in question, there seems to be no such pervading of the Air through the pores of the suspended or restagnant Mercury.

First, if such a transition of the Air were through the column and restagnant Mercury, it must needs (as in the former case) make a visible appearance thereof in the Mercury; and raise some tumultuous *phenomena* in it, but no such thing

thing appears to the eye in the *Torricellian Experiment*!

Secondly, the difficulty of the *transitus* of the external Air through the Mercury in the *Torricellian Experiment* is infinitely greater than in the instance above given: for in that instance the Air hath but one motion upward, and is assisted in it by the Mercury giving way to it. But here in the *Torricellian Experiment*, there must be a double intention and motion of the Air, *viz.* 1. It must *descendendo* terebrate through the restagnant Mercury, and then when it hath passed that difficulty, it must terebrate through the erect column of Mercury *ascendendo*. And it is not conceivable that the pores of the erect and restagnant Quick-silver, crossing one another in respect of their position and situation, can accommodate such a crooked and contradictory motion of any particle of Air.

Thirdly, again it cannot reasonably be thought, but that if there were such a transition of the Air through the restagnant and suspended Quick-silver,

K

but



but it should be as reasonable to continue after the subsiding of the Mercury to twenty nine Inches, as before, the passage remaining still open through the Mercury. The consequence whereof would be, that the whole Tube would be supplied with Air, and consequently the whole body of Mercury be emptied into the restagnant vessel; as when a little Pin-hole is made in the top of the sealed Tube.

Fourthly, again if it were forreign Air or *Aether* that were admitted, it is not easily conceptible, how the finger stopping the upper orifice of the Tube, should be attracted inward, or the Bladder distended, as in the former Chapter; for the immission of forreign Air through the Mercury, or Glais, must rather contract than expand the Bladder, by the accession of an external compression from it, as will happen upon the least hole made in the Tube. Upon these and the like reasons it seems to me altogether improbable, that the derelicted space should be filled with Air or *Aether* from without, by an intro-  
mission

mission of it through the Glass or Mercury.

## CHAP. IX

*Concerning the other Supposition, namely, that this derelicted Space is filled with a Body ab intra.*

Since therefore I have concluded, that this derelicted Space in the Tube is filled with a Body, and that That Body comes not *ab extra*, and there is no Body within to supply that room but the Mercury, or that which must be extracted from it: and in as much as the Mercurial consistence it self is descended to twenty nine Inches, it remains necessary that this Body that fills the derelicted *interstitium*, must be a subtle body extracted from the Mercurial body. But how, or in what manner this is effected, is inquirable.

And now before I come to the Inquiry it self, I must take notice that there are three kinds of instances of the *Torricellian* Experiment. K 2

132 **Observations touching the**

1. The first is, where the Tube is just twenty nine Inches and half long, and sealed at the top, and then filled with Mercury, and inverted into restagnant Mercury, without any admision of any Air; and though that be difficult to effect, yet if it be effected, there is no vacant space left, but the column of Mercury adheres to the top of the Tube, it being its just station.

2. The second is, when the Tube is above twenty nine Inches and half, suppose four foot long, sealed at the top, and filled up to twenty nine Inches and half, and then inverted, whereby the Air riseth to the top of the Tube, and the Mercury subsides not only to twenty nine Inches and half, but much lower, namely as far as that column of Air in the upper end of the Tube is by tension extendible by the force of the descension of the Mercury, which being about eighteen Inches of Air, possibly by the descent of the Mercury will be extended to above twice the length, whereby the Mercury may subside it may be to about fourteen Inches, (I am not curious in the Calculation.)

3. The



3. The third Instance is, where the Tube for the purpose is four foot long, sealed at one end, filled with Mercury without any portion of Air admitted, whereby the Mercury inverted into a vessel of restagnant Mercury, subsides to twenty nine Inches and half, and so leaves about eighteen Inches deserted by the Mercury.

And though in the pursuit of this discourse there will be use of the discussion of the two former Instances, yet in this place only the last of the three yeilds the Inquiry, namely what it is that fills that space derelicted by the Mercury.

And I adventure to conclude, that it is a subtle Corporeal Substance extracted from the gross Mercurial Body, or forced out of it.

The methods of this Separation are two, the one proposed by *Linus*, the other offered by others.

That of *Linus* (if I understand him aright) seems to be this: namely that by the descent of the Mercury, and *in obsequium naturæ universalis*, for preventing of Vacuity, there are taken away succe-

134 **Observations touching the**

sively from the superficies of the Mercury certain scales as it were of an indivisible profundity, and these are rarified into a subtle invisible consistence or vapor, which supply that deserted space, and make up a kind of *funiculus* that suspends the Mercury to the Tube, and is coextended to the whole vacant space gradually, as the Mercury descended.

This seems to be somewhat difficult, especially considering the heterogeneous parts of the Mercury, whereof some seem to be of that solidity, that are uncapable of such a separation.

Besides it would be difficult to conceive, how these superficies of this Body should in a moment, by the inclination of the Tube, be rejoined to the Mercurial body and consistence; and in a moment again, upon the re-erection of the Tube to its perpendicular posture, be rarefied from so gross a consistence into so subtle and invisible a nature; both which will be the effects, one of the inclination, the other of the re-erection of the Tube.

Therefore I shall rather choose another,

ther, and, as I think a more account-  
able Solution.

It is plain to our daily observation,  
that all Bodies, especially such as are  
liquid or fluid, do continually send out  
from them certain subtle *Effluvia*, scarce  
perceptible to the Eye, but manifest in  
their effects. It is also evident, that all  
Bodies, especially fluids, and such as  
consist even of Heterogeneous parts, by  
strong agitation, by heat or motion,  
have many of their parts resolved into  
a more subtle consistence, than appeared  
before such agitation. Thus Water by  
heat or violent motion resolves it self  
into vapours or steams.

Mercury is of it self an heterogeneous  
body, consisting of some more solid, o-  
ther more fluid and moist parts. If any  
man shall take the pains violently to  
shake Water and Mercury together, and  
thoroughly wash it, he shall find the shi-  
ning parts that are the more fluid, se-  
vered from little black or dark granules  
like Sand, which will gradually subside  
visibly in the water into a heap, before  
the nimble shining particles united



136 **Observations touching the**  
to them, and also certain Airy corpuscles  
rising to the top of the Water.

And as thus by the separation by water, so by a strong heat the Mercurial Bodies will be in a great measure resolved into a fume or smoak, which nevertheless (as is said) will coagulate again, and assume the former Mercurial consistency, at least in a great measure.

Mercury, though it be one of the coldest Minerals, doth contain and send out from its body certain *Effluvia*, and noxious vapors, as they experiment that are conversant in Mines of that kind.

If any man observe the descent of the Mercury from the top of a long Tube in the *Torricellian* Engine, he shall find the descent not so quick and nimble, as if both ends were open, and (contrary to the usual acceleration of descending heavy Bodies) more and more slow and faint, the nearer it comes to its station, which is an evidence that there is a *lucta* and contention in Nature, while it extrates, separates, and abrades the parts, that must supply the derelicted space,

space, and likewise in giving them a tension or dilatation answerable to it.

They that have exercised much the *Torricellian* Experiments, and those of the like nature with Mercury, have apparently found that the frequent iteration of these Experiments have much imbas'd the nature of Mercury, depurating it from those subtle steams and *Effluvia* that naturally attend it, and thereby the very Mineral it self becomes more vapid, discharged of its subtle Spirits or parts, and rendred less useful not only for Medicinal but Mechanical Experiments: whereby it appears that it loseth somewhat of its more subtle substance by iterated Experiments, and will prove more sluggish. For this I call to witness *Honoratus Fabri*, in the latter end of his *Philosophical Dialogues*, and some of our own Nation that have asserted the same, and in my own Experience I have also found it true.

It is certain, that when Mercury, or any other fluid falls in a Tube, the higher it falls, the more force it hath, and the greater compression the lower parts receive

138 **Observations touching the**  
receive from the upper, for all Bodies  
that descend, descend with the greater  
force, according to the altitude of their  
descent, as I shall have occasion hereaf-  
ter to observe.

The descent therefore of Mercury in a  
Tube of six foot high, is much more  
powerful than a descent from four foot  
high; and That than a descent from  
three foot, or twenty nine Inches high,  
and consequently the compression of  
the inferior parts by the superior; and  
in a greater descent than in a less.

And yet (as I before said) it is evident in  
the descent of the Mercury from a Tube  
of four foot high, stopt above, and im-  
mersed beneath in restagnant Mercury,  
is not without a *lucta* or contention;  
and although the higher the Tube is,  
the descent at first is more quick, yet it  
gradually grows slower and slower,  
till it come to the common station of  
its suspension, *viz.* twenty nine Inches  
and half, or thereabouts. But yet even  
in the first efforts of its motion, it is not  
so quick or violent, as its own natural  
motion



motion would otherwise attain for it, receives a *remora* and impediment by the difficulty of separating of its subtle parts.

These things are apparently true to any man's observation, and from these observations I frame these Conclusions.

1. That the substance that fills the head of the Tube, as the Mercury descends, are the *Effluvia*, steams, or subtle vaporous parts of the Mercurial Body.

2. That these steams or vapors are separated from the Mercurial body by a double immediate means. First by way of Expression, or driving them out by the strong descending motion of the Mercury, the compression of the inferior parts by the superior, and the great agitation of its parts; the grosser Mercurial parts coming closer together, and driving out the more subtle and vaporous parts. Secondly by way of Extraction, or straining out those parts that are more subtle and fluid, and capable of Expansion, and from hence ariseth that *lutta* and *mora* in the descent of

140 **Observations touching the**  
of the Mercury; by the straining of the  
Mercurial vaporous bodies, and raking  
them out. And

3. That those parts thus extracted  
are dilated and extended to as great an  
amplitude and tension, as the strength  
of the descent of the Mercury, and the  
amplitude of the space it leaves re-  
quires; which tension also contributes  
much to the retarding of the swiftness  
of the Mercurial descent.

4. And because at twenty nine In-  
ches and half, the weight of the Mer-  
cury decreaseth to such a state, as cannot  
work any farther separation of subtle  
matter to supply any more room, it  
stays there, and descends no farther, not  
having strength enough at that hight  
to separate any subtle matter from it  
self, to supply the space it should leave  
by such descent.

5. Although the immediate cause  
of the separation of the subtle matter of  
Mercury, and the expansion or dilata-  
tion thereof, be the force of the descent,  
and weight, and pressure of the Mercury,  
yet this is performed *in obsequium*  
*uni-*

Torricellian Experiment. 141

*universalis natura*, for the avoiding of the dissolution of Continuity, or, which is all one, *ob fugam vacui*.

6. And the same reason *mutatis mutandis* will be applicable to the suspension of water in a Tube, which will be suspended at 31 foot, or thereabout, as Mercury is at twenty nine Inches. For by the same means that subtle parts are separable from Mercury, subtle parts are much more separable from Water, by a strong tension or compression of it, as appears by the raising of innumerable Airy Bubbles out of a vessel of Water, by the strong tension of the Air in the Air-pump, large instances whereof appears in Mr. Boyle's Experiments, 19, 21, 22, 23, &c.

The whole process and model of the suspending of Water in a long Tube above one and thirty foot long, and how it subsides to about one and thirty foot, and no longer. *vide apud Shottum in his mirabilia Vari lib. 3. cap. 2. in Experimento Robervalli Magnani & Bertii.*

And now if it be said, suppose the Tube were seven, eight, or ten foot long,



long, or if it were three or four foot long, and the upper end were a Bolts head, that should contain three or four pound of Mercury, this would subside to twenty nine Inches: where should there be *Effluvia* to fill so great a space?

I answer: the more Mercury descends to twenty nine Inches, the more *Effluvia* there will be to fill that place that the Mercury left, and so the Supply will necessarily be as liberal, as the space the Mercury took up before its descent to 29 Inches and half, because there is a greater stock of Mercury to yeild it, and a greater continuation of motion to extract it. And there seems no necessity of any great quantity of subtle matter to be driven, or driven out of the Mercurial Mass, because it is a substance capable of dilatation to a greater expansion than its own natural consistency, by the subsiding of the Mercury.

*Mersennus* tells us, that by experience he finds, that by a strong tension of a particle of Air, it is capable to an expansion of neer seventy times the space of its ordinary consistency, as in *Æolipiles*,

*Torricellian Experiment.* 143

piles, and the like Engins. And we see that if an Inch of Air be left in the top of the Tube, it will by the bare force of the descent of the Mercury be expanded to neer ten times its former space. And upon the same account it will fall out, that the quantity of one Inch of those Mercurial effluxes will, by the descent of the Mercury, be stretched out and expanded to fill the derelicted space of the Mercury, far exceeding their common and ordinary extenſion.

*Fig. 9.* The most considerable Objection against this Supposition seems to be this. That if the Tube of four foot long filled with Mercury, and then immersed in reſtagnant Mercury, whereby the Mercury ſubſides to twenty nine Inches, and leaves a ſpace of about 18 Inches ſeemingly empty, yet if the Tube be inclined, as in *B*, to an altitude parallel to twenty nine Inches of vertical hight. The Tube *B* will be as at firſt filled with Mercury, drawn or driven out of the reſtagnant veſſel, and no vacant ſpace left; and if again it be erected perpendicularly as before, the Mercury

144 **Observations touching the**

cury will subside as before, *viz.* to twenty nine Inches; what becomes of the subtle exhalation upon the inclination of the Tube?

I answer, it is true, that by the inclination of the Tube the Mercury that descended out of the Tube into the restagnant vessel of Mercury, will be drawn up into the Tube, and the Tube filled again with it, the same by the inclination of the Tube becomes of less accidental weight. But this doth no way cross what I have supposed: I therefore answer,

1. That by the inclination of the Tube at *B*, the Mercury doth not press so urgently upon the subjected Mercury, as it doth in its perpendicular position; for it is sustained according to the laws of Staticks by leaning upon the inclined Tube. and presseth not so forcibly upon the fund or Base.

2. That therefore the pores or consistency of the Mercury in the inclined Tube are more lax and open, and regain more of that natural texture of its Mercurial consistence, and receives into it again



again those connatural steams or efflu-  
xes, that were shot or drawn out of it  
by its former compression, and the attra-  
ction made upon it by reason of its de-  
scend.

3. And by its re-erection unto its  
former perpendicular posture, they are  
again thrust or drawn out by its con-  
traction and compression, and the for-  
cible attraction wrought upon it by  
that Catholick Law of Nature, prefer-  
ving the continuity of the Universe.

And that which seems evidently to  
evince the truth hereof, is the instance  
given by the Excellent Author himself,  
in his 20, 21, 22, 23, but especially in  
his 24<sup>th</sup> Experiment of the Air-pump;  
wherein the violent attraction of the  
Pump, and the strong tension of the Air  
included in the Receiver, raiseth from  
the bottom of an included vessel of Wa-  
ter Oyl, but especially Spirit of Wine,  
great Bubbles to the top of the vessels,  
(which is performed either by that for-  
cible extraction of the more subtle and  
Aerial Particles included in that liquor,  
or by subtilizing or rarefying some  
L. parts

146 **Observations touching the**  
parts of the liquor. But as soon as that  
strong tension and attraction by the  
included Air is taken off, by the immis-  
sion of fresh Air into the Receiver, the  
Bubbles subsided, and the subtle parts  
included in it were again rejoined, and  
reunited to the same liquors from  
whence they were exhausted, which  
by a new tension wrought by a new re-  
peted suction of the Pump, might be  
again extracted.

And thus far touching the third Ge-  
neral, namely what it is that is inclu-  
ded in the space derelicted by the Mer-  
cury.

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CHAP.

## CHAP. X.

*The enquiry touching the Cause that keeps the Mercury suspended in the Tube at 29 Inches, or thereabout; and first what is not the Cause of this Suspension.*

THE consideration of what it is that remains in the derelicted space, in the upper end of the Tube, and the consideration what it is, that keeps up the Mercury to twenty nine Inches, or thereabouts, are of two several kinds: for although the former Consideration is necessary to be known, before we can arrive at a reasonable discovery of the latter; yet it would not be simply of it self impossible, that there should be such a corporeal substance, as I have above conjectured, in the derelicted head of the Tube, and yet the Mercury might wholly discharge it self in the restagant vessel, which yet we see it doth not.

Therefore having in the former  
L 2 Chap.



148. **Observations touching the**

Chapters finished the former, which was the fourth general Inquiry, namely, what it is that fills the derelicted space; I now come to the fifth and sixth Inquiry, namely what is not the cause of this suspension of the Mercury, and what seems to me the true cause thereof.

And among those that are assigned for causes of this suspicion, which yet are not causes thereof, I shall mention only these three; namely the renitence or resistance of the Mercury in the restaguant vessel; 2. and the counterpoise of the impendent column of the Atmosphere, equal in base to the base of the Cylinder of Mercury suspended in the Tube; and 3. the Elatery or Spring of the inferior part of the Air.

Of the former briefly in this Chapter, of the two latter more at large in what follows.

*Stevinus* in the Explication of the 10<sup>th</sup> Proposition of his Hydrostaticks, affirms, that the resistance of the base of any fluid Body, is greater in proportion than the *pondus deprimens* of a like fluid:

fluid: which *Fabri* in the sixth of his *Philosophical Dialogues*, pag. 480. and 493, goes about Geometrically to demonstrate: but I confess that it is performed with so much intricacy, and obscurity, that I do not fully apprehend it.

And if this be so, it may seem at first view, that the resistance of the restag-  
nant Mercury in the subjacent vessel, which is as it were the base or foot of that Mercurial Column of Mercury, that is suspended in the Tube, may contribute something to its sustentation in that position.

But upon due consideration I find this is but an imagination, and contributes nothing to this *phenomenon*.

Indeed, if a liquid be impendent upon solid base, as Mercury upon Marble; or if a lighter or less compacted fluid be bottomed or imbas'd upon a much more gross and compacted fluid, as a Tube full of Air upon a Superficies of Water, or a Tube full of Water upon a Superficies of Mercury, though the Tube be open at both ends, the Base will sustain the Column of the lighter or less compacted fluid.

But if they are of the same kind and consistence, the Base contributes nothing to the sustentation of the impending Column. But if there be no other impediment, it will wholly subside. And therefore if a Tube, open at both ends, be filled with Water, and the lower end stopt with the finger, be immersed under a vessel of Water, and then unstopped; or if an open Tube stopt at the lower end with the finger, be immersed in a vessel of restagnant Mercury; in the former case the Water, and in the latter the Mercury will wholly subside to the level of the Superficies of the Water or Mercury in the subjacent vessel, which would not be, notwithstanding the Tube were open at both ends, if a Base of the same fluid had any force or resistance against its descent.

Nay the truth is, the position of the Water or Mercury in the Tube, in any the least degree higher than the Superficies of the Water or Mercury in the vessel, hath an accidental Gravitation upon a lower Superficies of the same fluid,



fluid, by reason of such position or elevation of the fluid in the Tube, above the Superficies of the fluid in the vessel, and by that position presseth upon it, as shall be farther illustrated hereafter. And therefore the *pondus deprimens* of the same fluid in such an elevated position, conquers and overmatcheth the *potentia sustinens* of the subjected fluid, though it were an Ocean of Water. I therefore lay aside this Supposition, as contributing nothing to this *phenomenon*, and proceed to the examining of those, that with great pretension and patronage are suggested to be the Cause of this Suspension.

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## CHAP. XI.

*Concerning the supposition of the æquilibrium of a pillar of the Air, or Atmosphere, as the Cause sustaining the Mercurial Cylinder.*

**T**His latter age, as it produced the *Toricellian* Experiment, so it hath produced a new Systeme in Nature for the Solution of it, namely the Gravitation of the Atmosphere, and an *æquilibrium* of a Column thereof to the weight of the Mercurial Cylinder contained in the Tube, whereby it is sustained; a fuller Explication whereof hereafter follows.

And it is admirable to see, how much this new opinion hath obtained among the *Virtuosi* of this latter Age; so that as a new fashion is greedily entertained among the Gallants of the times, and an old fashion despised and contemned; so this new *hypothesis* is as greedily entertained by the great Wits of the times, and

and hath obtained the stile of a *Doctrina* ;  
and the Old Peripatetical Learning ;  
touching *Vacuum*, and the Inseparability  
of Bodies, exterminated, under the re-  
proach of *decantata fuga*.

Nay the theory is so much idolized,  
that some late Authors have strangely  
contended for the dignity of being the  
first Inventers of it.

And some that have defended the  
Peripatetical Solution of *fuga vacui* , as  
*Shottus*, when he wrot his *mirabilia Hy-*  
*draulica* and *pneumatica* ; yet whether  
overwhelmed and astonished with the  
*Magdeburgh* Experiment and varieties  
thereof, or whether he was not willing  
to seem to perceive less than the *Virtuosi*,  
that had espoused the new Solution ,  
becomes a Convert, and fairly retracts  
his former Opinion, and gives up the  
Solution of the *Torricellian* Experiment  
to the *equipondium* of the like portion  
of the Atmosphere, in his *Technica Curi-*  
*osa* , l. 4. cap. 6. q. 2.

And 'tis pleasant to see what a won-  
derful progeny, and voluminous Sy-  
stems of Theories, Consecrations, and  
Con-



Conclusions have been since built upon this Supposition! wherein though the Authors have shewn much wit, subtlety, and learning, yet they have lost the expence of much time, and invention, and pains, if at last when all is done, it prove but an imagination.

The Supposition therefore seems to be this:

1. That the Atmosphere or lower portion of the Air, some say seven, some twenty two, others fifty, others an hundred miles high, hath a considerable Gravitation upon its inferior parts upon the Earth, and upon all Bodies in this lower world.

2. That where a Tube, sealed at one end, is filled with Mercury, and then inverted into a restagnant vessel of Mercury, the Mercury will subside to twenty nine Inches and half, and no lower, because a column of Atmospheric Air, of the same base with the cavity of the Tube, and incumbent upon the face of the restagnant Mercury, doth just counterpoise such a column of Mercury of twenty nine Inches and half high:

high: so that if the Mercurial Cylinder be of that bulk, as to weigh five pound, the Atmospherical Cylinder weighs just as much, and so as one artificial scale being charged with an equal weight with the other, stands in this *equilibrium*: so in this natural Scale the Atmospherical Cylinder pressing upon the restagnant Mercury with an equal weight, to the 29 Inches and half of Mercury in the Tube, sustains and keeps it up in an *equilibrium*.

3. But if while the Mercurial Cylinder stands thus suspended, there be any little hole made in the sealed top of the Tube, the weight of the Air now pressing in upon the Mercurial Cylinder, takes away that *equilibrium* which it had with that external column of Atmosphere, while it was protected from the impendent column of Air by the sealed top of the Glass; and now the Mercury is driven down by the equal weight of the Air, and wholly subsides into the restagnant Mercury; for now the Aereal Cylinder without the Tube, and that within and upon the Tube, have

have the same common weight or Gravitation upon the Mercury. And upon these Suppositions they graft innumerable Conclusions, and among the rest that the Air gravitates upon all Bodies; that the exact proportion of the weight of Air is herehence necessarily deducible; for if a column of Mercury, of half an Inch diameter, and twenty nine Inches and half high, weighs two pound (for instance,) then a column of Air of the same diameter, extending from the restagnant Mercury to the top of the Atmosphere, weighs just as much. And from hence they measure the hight of the Atmosphere, or ponderous Air; namely, Air being about a thousand times lighter than the like bulk of Water, and Water being fourteen times lighter than the like bulk of Mercury, it must follow by the rule of proportion, That if two pound of Mercury give a column of half an Inch diameter, to be twenty nine Inches high; then two pound of Atmosphere must give a column of twenty nine times 14000 Inches high: (I am not curious in the  
pro-



*Torricellian Experiment.* 157

proportion, but only shew the method of their inferences: ) and abundance of such fine Consequences are built upon this Platform, which were too large to enumerate.

Now as touching this Solution of the Suspension of the Mercury in the Tube, by the *equipondium* of a Cylinder of Air, of the same diameter with the Cylinder of Mercury, I say it seems to me an Imagination, and to be utterly untrue.

I will not repete what I have formerly said against the Gravitation of the Air, in the fourth Chapter, which yet I take to be sufficient to evince the untruth of this Supposition: but I will subjoin two or three homely Experiments, which with the application of them will, as I think, detect the untruth and inefficacy of this Solution.

I. I will begin with one offered by the Asserters themselves of this Solution, of a late learned Author, in the 11. Proposition of his *Hydrostaticks*, and the *Scholium* thereupon, which I shall agree to be a true Experiment, but the application

158 **O**bservations touching the  
cation thereof too much distorted, to  
gratifie the *hypothesis*; but in truth and  
reality utterly confounding it.

Take a vessel of restagnant Mercury,  
of seven Inches deep; then take a Glasse  
Tube of half an Inch diameter in the  
cavity, and of half an Inch thick in  
each side, sealed at the one end, and of 3  
foot long; whereby the entire Tube  
will be an Inch and a half in its whole  
diameter: Fill it with Mercury, and  
stop it with the finger at the open end,  
and invert and immerse it to the bottom  
of the restagnant Mercury. It will then  
come to pass, that about twenty nine  
Inches and half, the ordinary altitude  
of the column of Mercury, will be above  
the Superficies of the restagnant Mer-  
cury, and the whole Tube will thereby  
remain full to the top: but the Glasse  
being lighter than the Mercury, will be  
impelled up by the restagnant Mercury  
neer to the Superficies thereof, where-  
by there will remain about six Inches of  
the upper end of the Tube empty of the  
Mercury, but still there will be about  
twenty nine Inches and half of the Tube  
still

*Torricellian Experiment,* 159

still full of Mercury, namely, the usual station of its Suspension.

I will suppose the twenty nine Inches and half of Mercury, suspended in the Tube, to weigh one pound, and that the Glass Tube of it self weighs likewise one pound.

I will now suppose, that the upper end of the Tube were fixed by a string to the Beam of a pair of Scales, as in his 319<sup>th</sup> figure in that book. I say that two pound in the adverse Scale will counterpoise this Tube with the included Mercury, and if any little advantage of weight, suppose an Ounce, were added to the adverse Scale, that Scale charged with two pound and an Ounce, will preponderate it.

And I say no more than what the Author says was determined touching it by the *Royal Society*, whereunto he subscribes, pag. 727. in these words. *Pondus in adversa lance contraponderans æquipollebat suspensi hydrargyri cujuscunque altitudinis, atque simul (quantum conjectando aestimabant) suspensi tubi ei parti quæ stagnantis in subjecto vase hydrargyri superfici-*  
ciei



*ciei supereminebat.* Now it is certain that if the one pound of Mercury contributes to this weight, it is not sustained by the adjacent external column of Air, pressing the Superficies of the restagnant Mercury; for if so, it is sustained by the *equipondium* of that Aereal column, and cannot affect the Scale with its weight; for it is sustained by another counterpoise, and not by the two pound weight of the Scale.

And again it is as certain, that if the Mercury do contribute to the counterpoise of the Scale, it must by some means be as it were fastned to the Scale, (we will suppose it to be *Linus* his *funiculus*,) for otherwise the Glass would only weigh as a separate thing from the Mercury; which would of it self contribute (*ex suppositione*) but one pound to the weight, which would be necessarily preponderated by the adverse Scale charged with two pound weight.

And therefore it is most clear, if the included column of Mercury contributes one pound weight to the ballance, it is not sustained by the imaginary column

Torricellian Experiment. 161

column of Air equal in diameter to the Mercurial Cylinder, but by an intrinsic connection or ligament to the Tube, whereby it weighs as one concrete Body with the Glass, which I call the *Funiculus ex subtilibus Mercurialibus effluviis contextus*.

The Author, to avoid this difficulty, therefore tells us, that this thing *primo aspectu incautis nonnullis ad Staticam minus attentis facile imponeret*; and to avoid the imposture, tells us, that all this while it is not the Mercury that contributes to the weight, for that hath another kind of Sustentation by the *equipondium* of the forreign Air; but it is another column of Air, that impends upon the upper end of the Glass Tube as its Base, and therefore commensurate to the suspended Mercury in weight. And this is the effect of the Solution, namely, that only the Glass, and the column of Air impendent upon it, makes the counterpoise, and the Mercury contributes nothing to it.

And indeed if the column of Air, charging the Tube, were of an equal

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dia-

diameter with the Mercury, or the cavity of the Tube, the Evasion were handsome and suitable to their *hypothesis*, though untrue: but the instance in question, as it is proposed, quite shatters this Solution, and renders it not only untrue, but unsuitable to their very principles.

For in this instance, the diameter of the column of Mercury is but half an Inch, but the diameter of the whole Tube is an Inch and half, which gives an *area* to the base of the Cylinder of Air impending on it, more than four times bigger than the Base of the Mercurial Cylinder. And therefore if a Cylinder of the Atmosphere of half an Inch diameter, be commensurate to the weight of the Mercurial Cylinder, and consequently weighs a full pound at that scantlet; the Aereal Cylinder, commensurate to the upper *area* of the Glass Tube, which is an Inch and half diameter, must necessarily weigh above four pounds, and therefore would not be equiponderated by the two pound weight in the opposite Scale.

This



*Torricellian Experiment.* 163

This instance therefore which is delivered with the memorial of the day, and place of its Exhibition, seems to make more to the disadvantage, than the advantage of this new Philosophy.

But to this Objection there is a Solution offered, namely, that let the Glass be of what thickness it will; That alters not the case, for the Mercury is pressed up by the counterpoise of a Cylinder of Air, answerable to the cavity of the Tube, not to the crassitude of its sides: for Glass being a Body specifically lighter than the Mercury, the Glass it self is sustained by the restagnant Mercury, which is its Base, and supports it.

But still this Answer, though it be true, avoids not the Objection. For 1. let us suppose, in stead of a Tube of Glass, a Tube of Gold, which being specifically heavier than so much Mercury, would sink to the bottom, and not be sustained by the Mercury, but must be lifted up, and sustained purely by the weight in the opposite Scale: 2. or suppose the Tube of Glass were charged in its closed end with a greater quantity

164 **O**bservations touching the  
of Lead, that, though specifically lighter  
than Mercury, would by its excess of  
extrinſical weight, deprefs the Tube to  
the bottom of the reſtagnant Mercury:  
or 3. though the Tryal were made by a  
Glaſs Tube filled with Water, and in-  
verted into a veſſel of Water; for there  
the Glaſs Tube, with the incloſed Cy-  
linder of Water, would ſubſide to the  
bottom, being altogether in its con-  
crete heavier than the Water, and  
could not be ſupported by the reſtagnant  
Water, but by the weight in the adverſe  
Scale: in theſe Inſtances the difficulty  
will not be ſalved.

Therefore I took a Glaſs Tube, the  
cavity whereof was half an Inch diame-  
ter, the thickneſs of the Glaſs incircling  
the cavity  $1\frac{1}{8}$  of an Inch; and conſe-  
quently from outside to outside the dia-  
meter of the Tube was  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an Inch;  
the length of the Tube eighteen Inches,  
the weight thereof in the Air two oun-  
ces  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an Ounce, and being heavier  
than the like bulk of Water, it would  
freely ſubſide perpendicularly to the bot-  
tom of a veſſel of reſtagnant Water  
dee-

*Torricellian Experiment.* 165

deeper than 18 Inches, notwithstanding the sustentation it had by the included Air, being empty, and so the Water contributed nothing to the support of the Tube when it came to be weighed, but only the thickness of its *medium*, which yet was not able to support it from sinking.

The Water which the Tube would contain, weighed one Ounce and three quarters, wanting about a Grain or two at most.

The Tube was tied at the closed end with a string to the Scale of a Ballance and filled with Water, and stopping it with the finger, inverted into a vessel of Water 18 Inches deep, or more: and then the Tube with the included Water thus immersed in Water, carefully weighed, the Water still remaining suspended in the Tube, (as it will do as long as it stands so immersed,) and the Events were these:

When the Tube was full six Inches above the Superficies of the Water in the Vessel, it weighed just two Ounces and three quarters of an Ounce, which

M 3 weight



weight in the opposite Scale kept it in an *equilibrium*; for now the rest of the Water in the Tube, below the Superficies of the Water in the vessel, weighed nothing at all, because it obtained so far the same common Superficies, and was therefore sustained by the common weight which it had with the Water in the vessel, and only six Inches of Water contributed to the counterpoise, together with the weight of the Glass Tube it self, though refracted by the thickness of the *medium*: so that now these six Inches of suspended Water, and the Tube it self, weighed no more at this position in the Water, than what the Tube alone weighed in the Air.

But when the Tube, with the included column of Water was raised very neer eighteen Inches above the Superficies of the vessel of Water, so that there was as little as could well be to keep the orifice of the Tube under Water, *viz.* about a quarter of an Inch, it then required an addition of very neer one Ounce  $\frac{1}{4}$  in the opposite Scale, to hold the Tube in an *equilibrium*, which equalled

led the true weight of the Tube it self and Water included, when in the free Air, viz. two Ounces and three quarters, and one Ounce and three quarters; in all four Ounces and half, because now the Water in the Tube had now in effect its due weight, which it had when divided from the Water in the vessel, and so had its due Gravitation upon the Scale.

Upon this Tryal of it with Water these things are observable.

1. That according to the proportion of the Elevation assigned to Water, it would have been sustained in a Tube of one and thirty foot high, and consequently in this of eighteen Inches the Water had not attained a twentieth part of that height, at which it might in a Tube be kept suspended.

2. That according to these mens Suppositions, the Suspension in the Tube, either of Water or Mercury, is supposed to be by the pressure of a column of the Atmosphere upon the Water or Mercury in the vessel, and thereby the column of Water or Mercury is

M 4 by

by that counterpoise driven up in the Tube. This Tube being but of eighteen Inches long, the forreign Atmospheric pillar still will urge the Water or Mercury to rise to an *equipondium* with it, namely the Mercury to twenty nine Inches, the Water to thirty one foot, or thereabouts.

3. And consequently, according to their Supposition, the Cylinder of Water, in the instance in question, within the Tube, presseth up the Tube, and would lift it up to one and thirty foot high, had the Tube been long enough.

4. But as the Atmospheric Cylinder without the Tube presseth up the Water, so the Atmospheric Cylinder incumbent upon the head of the Tube, presseth it down; and so according to those men it is not the Water in the Tube, that gives any counterpoise to the opposite Scale, but the Atmospheric Cylinder, answerable to the cavity of the Tube, that presseth upon the head of the Tube.

5. And that weight of the Atmospheric



spherical Cylinder upon the head of the Tube, is counterpoised by the forreign Cylinder, abating only so much, as the proportion of the Water thrust or kept up in the Tube, amounteth to; which being in the instance in hand about a twentieth part of what the forreign Atmospheric pillar weighs, the Atmospheric pillar incumbent upon the head of the Tube weighs just so much as the Water included in the Tube amounts unto. But upon the whole matter, this fine Theory appears to be but a handsom Imagination. For it is plain, in the instance in hand, the Atmospheric Cylinder, incumbent upon the head of the Tube, is larger than the cavity of the Tube, and consequently more weighty by far (if it have any weight at all) than that forreign Cylinder of Atmosphere, which is supposed to sustain the included column of Water, and the Tube it self is not sustained nor sustainable by the Water in the vessel, but is wholly raised by the weight in the opposite Scale: and therefore the Supposition, that the weight that presseth

170 Observations touching the

seth upon the Scale, is the weight of the Cylinder of Air upon the Tube it self, is vain; for then it should sustain the weight, not only of the Tube, but another weight far greater than the forreign column of Air could counterpoise.

And that which seems to me to convince this mistake in the whole proposed Theory, is this plain and obvious Experiment.

*Fig. 10.* I therefore took a Glass-tube of about half an Inch diameter, 18 Inches long, closed at one end, and weighing it exactly in the open Air, it weighed two Ounces and three quarters of an Ounce; and heating it very hot, where-by the included Air was highly rarified, I suspended the closed end upon one Scale of a Ballance, and let the open end sink a little into a vessel of Water, and counterpoised it in the other Scale with two Ounces three quarters; and because the end of the Tube did but little more than touch the Water, it held the same weight as before upon the Scale, viz, two Ounces three quarters.

As

*Torricellian Experiment.* 171

As soon as the Tube was thus contiguous to the Water, it attracted and raised the Water so, that in half a quarter of an hour the Tube was filled twelve Inches with Water, the Air contracting it self to six Inches in the top of the Tube, whereby it appears it was rarified two thirds beyond its natural and ordinary Rise and standard, which now againe it acquired by contracting it self.

The Water which it attracted being carefully marked at its highest Elevation, and then strictly measured, weighed one Ounce and a quarter.

Now the things observable in this instance are these. 1. That the single Tube, with the included rarified Air, did really weigh even in the external Air but two Ounces three quarters, and by that weight in the opposite Scale it was perfectly kept *in equilibrio*. 2. That when it touched the Superficies of the Water, and thereby attracted the Water into it, it presently grew more weighty, which it gradually increased, and accordingly more and more subsided, Tube and all, into the subjected vessel



172 Observations touching the

vessel of Water, as it received into it more Water, and consequently grew more weighty, 'till its full complement of 12 Inches of Water drawn up into it. 3. That when it was filled with twelve Inches of Water, then it weighed the full weight of the Tube, and the Water, *viz.* two Ounces three quarters for the weight of the Tube, and one Ounce and a quarter for the weight of the Water *in toto* four Ounces, and therefore four Ounces in the opposite Scale would keep it just *in aequibrio*. Only care must be taken, either by depressing the Water, or raising the Ballance, that the Tube must only touch the top of the Water, for otherwise the Water will run out, and prevent the tryal. Now to discover what it is that thus depresseth the Tube gradually, as the Water riseth up into the Tube, whether the weight of the Tube, or the weight of the Water included in it, I will consider,

1. What the external column of Air, which those Masters suppose to press up the Water in the Tube, contributes

*Torricellian Experiment.* 173

butes to it. and surely according to this Supposition of theirs, this is so far from causing any access of Gravitation to the Tube or Water included in it, that it rather presseth up the Tube, by pressing and impelling the Water into it; and indeed it is that which they themselves say, and build their Theories upon it, viz. that for this reason the Water in the Tube weighs nothing.

2. What the column of Air impendent upon the top of the Tube, commensurate in diameter to the cavity of the Tube, doth contribute, which according to their Solution must be it that weighs down the Tube by pressing upon it. But certainly this doth nothing in this case; for if the Tube it self, filled with rarified Air, weighs in the open Air but two Ounces three quarters, it can never come to weigh four Ounces when in the Water, (where by reason of the thickness of the *medium*, it must lose, and not gain weight,) and it had the same column of Air impendent upon its top, as well before its immersion into the Water, as after. And before its im-

immersion (whether it were full of common Air, or of Air thus highly rarified by heat) it still weighed neither more nor less than two Ounces three quarters.

3. Therefore it remains, that it is the weight of the Water, that thus creeps up in the Tube, and in its ascent to twelve Inches weighed just one Ounce and a quarter that gravitates in the Tube, and renders the weight of the whole to be four Ounces, which in the opposite Scale holds both Tube and Water *in equilibrio*.

And as the Tube is suspended to the Ballance by the string or thrid, so the included rarified Air is suspended to the top of the cavity of the Tube, by the powerful Laws of Nature, and lays hold upon the Superficies of the Water; and as it contracts it self more and more, draws up the column of Water higher and higher; as a Lute-string fastned to a fixed Body above, and to a small Weight below, after a high tension raiseth the Weight by contracting it self, and this to maintain the continuity of the parts of Nature.

And



*Torricellian Experiment.* 175

And this is a plain sensible and unforced Solution; and it seems to me, that those that tell us, that it is only the Tube, and the incumbent Cylinder of Air only, that gives the weight, were imposed upon, though not by ignorance of Statical Laws, yet by fondness and partiality to a new invented *hypothesis*.

2. The second Instance that I shall give, shall be this: Take a Glass Tube, closed at one end, of an Inch diameter in the cavity, fill it with Mercury, stop it with a small Engine, and invert it into a vessel of restagnant Mercury of an Inch and half diameter, then opening it by a contrivance which is not difficult, after it is inverted in the Mercury, the Mercury will be sustained at twenty nine Inches and half, as well as if the vessel of restagnant Mercury were of six Inches diameter.

And yet it is apparent, that the rim or round Superficies of the vessel of restagnant Mercury, is not above one fourth part in *area* of the Mercurial Cylinder, and cannot be pressed with a column of Air commensurate to the cavity

176 **O**bservations touching the  
ty of the Tube; for the incircling col-  
umn of Mercury is not a fourth part of  
the *area* of the Tube, neither can it be  
pressed with a column of Air of a grea-  
ter diameter or dimension than that lit-  
tle rim of Mercury that incompasseth  
the Tube. So that it is not the *equipon-*  
*dium* of the Atmospherical Column  
that sustains the Mercury in the Tube,  
for if it should, a column of Air of the  
fourth part of an Inch diameter, should  
be as weighty as a column of Air of an  
Inch diameter, because it must in this  
Instance make an *equipondium* to a  
weight of Mercury, commensurate to a  
column of Air of an Inch diameter.

Therefore it is not the *equipondium* of  
the Air that sustains the Mercury in  
the Tube, but something else, and what  
that is, we shall hereafter examine.

3. My third Instance is that com-  
mon one: If the *Torricellian* Engine be  
put in practice, in a great Glais Recei-  
ver, wholly excluding any communi-  
cation with the forreign Air, the Mer-  
cury will be suspended at twenty nine  
Inches and half, as well as in the free  
Air.

Air. And yet here can be no Atomospherical column, reaching from the top of the Atmosphere to the restagnant Mercury, with its Gravitation, to sustain the Mercurial column, the same being intercepted and broken by the interposition of the Glafs.

And this plain obvious evident Instance had wholly destroyed the *hypothesis*, and utterly disordered and scattered all the *porismata* and Consequences built upon it, had not another supplemental invention stept in to relieve it, namely the prodigious Elatery of the free Air, which upon a due examination will prove as great a mistake, and as impotent to relieve this deficient *hypothesis* as the former; and if it prove so, I doubt our new Philosophers must be fain to return to the *decantata fuga vacui* for a better Solution.



## CHAP. XII.

*Touching the Elatery or Spring of the Air.*

**I** Come now to consider that subsidiary help, substituted by the New Philosophy, for the Solution of the *phenomena* of the *Torricellian* and other Experiments of this nature: and herein I shall consider these things.

1. What Elatery or Spring is of all hands agreed to be truly found in the Air.

2. What Elatery or Spring is substituted by the late Philosophy, and how applied by them to the Solution of *phenomena* of this kind.

3. The Arguments, Reasons, and Evidences that evince the mistake of this new Elaterical Supposition.

First, as to the former of these, this is agreed of all hands, that the Air being a subtle Fluid, is capable of an accidental Elasticity of very great efficacy and force: namely, when by accidental impression

pression upon it, it loseth that common and natural state or consistence, that otherwise belongs to it.

As 1. by a great compression of its parts together, such as we see in Wind-guns, whereby it is compressed into a space sometimes seven times less than that which is natural to it, and then by a natural and strange motion of restitution it hath an Elasticity, whereby to regain its natural state and position. 2. By constipation of its parts by Cold, whereby it is bound up sometimes to a narrower room, and then by the approach of convenient heat, that constipation is relaxed, and the Air regains its natural liberty, motion, and consistency: and 3. by Rarification by heat, whereby it is expanded beyond its natural size, and as it grows cold, it obtains a kind of Elasticity inward, and an inward endeavouring to contract it self to its natural size and dimension. 4. In a strong tension by an accidental or collateral force, whereupon it contracts it self as much as it can to its natural state, and resists that tension

180 **Observations touching the**  
which discomposeth and extends it;  
from whence follows that which is  
usually called Suction, or Attraction,  
of which I shall have occasion hereafter  
to write more at large.

Again 2. it must be agreed, that although the Air in its natural consistence is by a great force compressible into a close order, yet it doth resist such a compression, and doth not easily yeild to it; and therefore take a Tube of any considerable length, closed at one end, and the open end inverted upon the Water, and pressed down, yet the Air included will retain very much of its natural state, and receives but a small contraction by the counterpressure of the Water, possibly an Inch in two or three, or somewhat more, according to the depth of its immersion.

But these Elateries are not such as concern the present question.

Therefore I come to the Supposition of the new Philosophy, in relation to this business of Elasticity of the Air, which they attribute to the common and free Air in which we breath and live;



live ; and if I mistake them not, their Supposition is this :

1. That the Air is a kind of Spungy Body, not much unlike (as to this purpose) to a Sponge or Fleece of Wool, capable of compression, and under that compression endeavouring to loosen and discharge it self by that which we call Springiness or Elasticity.

And herein we do not considerably differ, only they say that this Elasticity is of a vast, and almost unlimited nature, that scarce hath any bounds to it ; we say that it hath more contracted and determined limits of its Elasticity, and those are such as every portion of free Air obtains in a common and usual state of the temperament of the Weather.

2. Again they say, that the Body of the Air, or at least of the Atmosphere, consists of a great many little crooked filaments like Springes, which when extended to a greater straightness than is suitable to them, as in its high tension or rarification, endeavour regaining of their natural curvitude ; and when by any weight or force they are drawn close to-

gether, they spring out to their just extension, and that gives a common Springiness to the Air in such a consistence or circumstance.

3. That the superior parts of the Air gradually gravitate and compress the inferior parts, and therefore the higher the Atmosphere or Air is, the less it is compressed; but the lower it is, the more it is compressed, the lowermost parts receiving and sustaining the pressure of all these parts that are above.

4. That the actual Elatery, or Spring of the Atmosphere, or Air, is the issue or effect of this Gravitation; and the more the Gravitation is, the greater the Spring of those parts are, when they can but get liberty to expand themselves; for the greater weight doth the more bind and incurvate these crooked filaments, which makes them fly out extremely, when they can get themselves unfettered from the oppressing weight, and even while they are under that pressure they have their *conatus* for their liberty.

5. That because the lower parts of the

*Torricellian Experiment.* 183

the Air next the Earth are most pressed upon by the superior parts, therefore the lower parts of the Air have the greatest Elasticity and Springiness, which it exerciseth according as it gets liberty.

6. That therefore this inferior Air hath a natural vast propension to Extension, and amplifying of it self, inso-much that if we should suppose any part of the Universe were free from any Body, or had a more subtle Body than that of the common Air, if a portion of the lower Air next the Earth were placed there, it would upon the account of its own natural Elasticity, expand it self as largely, and it may be much larger than those Artificial Expansions wrought by fire in *Æolipiles*; and other Engines, wherein nevertheless the Air may be so ordered, as to possess seventy times more room than before it had.

7. That therefore when we see a little portion of Air included in a Tube, in the *Torricellian Experiment*, extended upon the descent of the Mercury four, five, or six Inches, or into a larger room than it possessed upon its first in-



clusion, this is no forced tension of the Air, but a free natural expansion of it self, having gained room and opportunity, by the descent of the Mercury, for its reception; and therefore this natural expansion of that included particle of Air, is one great help towards the descent of the Mercury, 'till it comes to its station.

8. That in as much as the Elasticity of the Air, when contiguous to the Earth, or other solid Body, is impeded in its Elasticity downward by the resistance of the Earth, it is as it were reverberated upward, and laterally, where it may be exercised: which is a great means of that support that the recoiling Aereal particles give to weighty Bodies, which is seen in the sustentation of the lower of the adhering Marbles.

9. That every part of the lower Air is under the same compression with the same region wherein it is, and therefore if a portion of the free or open Air be inclosed within a Glass-Receiver, closed on every side, yet it hath the same Elasticity that the portion of Air had, out of which it was taken.

10. And because that Air in the Glass is on every side penned up, and its Elasticity being as it were reverberated from every side of the Glass, doth the more intensely and forcibly recoil inward: and therefore it comes to pass, that though the great Glass Receiver, compassing in the *Torricellian Engine* on every side, be destitute of the weight of the column of Atmosphere, to suspend the Mercury by its *aquipondium*; yet the included Air doth the very same thing by its Elatery or Spring upon the restagnant Mercury.

And thus we see how, for the accommodating of the *Torricellian phenomena*, and some others of like nature, where the *pondus Atmosphericum* cannot be had nor acquired, what a laborious invention and process is framed for the supply of that deficiency.

Therefore I come to consider and examine, whether this laborious process have any thing of truth and reality in it, or whether, as that of the *pondus cylindri Atmospherici*, it be only a fine invention to help and support a lame and lan-

186 **Observations touching the**  
languishing *hypothesis* or Solution.

Although whatsoever doth oppose the Gravitation of the common Air, doth as necessarily conclude against this Elasticity of the free and common Air; and although much of what I have written in the third and tenth Chapters, against the Gravitation of the Air, is equally applicable against this imaginary Elasticity thereof, since the Elasticity is by the *hypothesis* supposed to be the effect of its Gravitation; yet I shall repeat nothing, or very little, of what I have there said, but apply my self singly to the discussion of this Elatery or Springiness of the common or free Air, both by Reason and by Experiments.

1. The Spring of the Air is bottomed upon the supposition of the actual pressure of the superior parts of the Air or Atmosphere upon the inferior, and the lower parts being under the greater pressure, hath consequently the greater Elatery. But upon what hath been before said, in the third Chapter, there is no such Gravitation or pressure of the Air or Atmosphere, and consequently



*Torricellian Experiment.* 187

no such Elatery in the free and open Air.

2. If there should be admitted any such Elasticity in a portion of the Air below in this inferior region, included within a Glass vessel or Receiver, (the instance for whose sake this invention was principally devised,) so as to sustain the suspended column of Mercury, then of necessity there must be the same Elasticity of the same or the like portion of the common Air, (for it is all supposed under the same common pressure of the superior parts :) the consequence whereof must needs be, that either the attribution of that Suspension to the Gravitation of a Column of the Air, and all the delicate Conjectures thereupon, are more Fancies and Mistakes, because the whole *phenomenon* is performable and performed by the Elasticity of the Air, as well without as within this close Glass vessel; or else the joint power of the *pondus*, as well as the Elasticity of the foreign Air, must raise the Mercury in the Tube to fifty nine Inches, since the Elatery of the Air alone, without the

the aid of the Gravity of the Atmospheric Cylinder in the inclosed vessel, is able to keep it suspended to twenty nine Inches and half. But we see the contrary in the Experiment tried, as well within as without the inclosed Glass; therefore either the weight of the Atmospheric Cylinder, or its Elatery, must be laid aside in this Solution, or, which is the truer Conclusion, neither the one nor the other are to be admitted, but both are to be rejected as crossing one another, and also the truth of the Solution.

3. Nay, but yet farther, if this Elatery be admitted, the whole Scheme of the Gravitation of the Air, or any part thereof, must be rejected as fictitious, and impossible; and on the other side, if the supposed Gravitation of the Air or Atmospheric Cylinder be admitted, the Elatery must be rejected, and the whole Air will be *in equilibrio*, in as much as upon this supposition of this New Philosophy, the Elatery presseth as much upward, as the Gravitation doth downward, and *è converso* the Gravitation as much

much downward, as the Elatery doth upward: so that after all this laborious *apparatus* of Gravitation, and Cylinders, and Atmosphere, and Elatery, the Air is at quiet, at rest, and *in æquilibrio*, which is easily granted without all this difficult *hypothesis*.

For according to these mens supposition (if we should admit it) the Atmosphere were seven Miles high, we must needs suppose that the greatest Elatery is next the Superficies of the Earth, because there it is more charged with the weight of the superior parts of the Air; and because the terrestrial Globe checks the Elatery of it downward; the Elatery must discharge it self by its motion upward, and so encounter the pressure of the Air, by how much more its Springs and crooked Particles are charged. And a Mile higher in the Atmosphere where is less pressure, there is consequently less Elatery or resistance of that pressure, and yet sufficient to keep that rundle of Atmosphere in an *æquilibrium*.

And it is plain, that this Counter-motion of the supposed Spring, or Elatery,



tery, and Gravitation of the Air, must by their mutual conflict, one check and refract the other.

But then it is hoped, that the interposition of another gross Body between the ponderous Air tending downward, and the reverberated, recoiling, Elastic Air tending upward, may part the fray; and thereupon in the instance of the two cohering Marbles, the upper column of impending Air may press down the upper Marble, and the lower column of recoiling Air may press up the lower Marble.

But this will do nothing to help the business in hand, touching the Mercurial column in the *Torricellian* Experiment, (for as for the cohesion of the two Marbles, and the reason of it, I shall in its due place examine.)

For it is plain there, that if there be any Elasticity in the Air next the Earth, there is proportion for proportion as much Elasticity in the Air next the restagnant Mercury, upon which it is incumbent, and which we may if we please, place even to the Superficies of the

*Torricellian Experiment.* 191

the Earth, for the column of Air (*ex suppositione*) proportionable in base to the Mercury, is as really gravitating upon the Mercury, as upon the Earth, and consequently there is the very same Elatery or *sursum* pressure of inferior parts of that Atmospherical pillar incumbent upon the Mercury, that would break the Gravitation of that upper Atmospherical Cylinder, and render it ineffectual.

Besides all this, as it requires a strong Phantasy to suppose this wonderful Elasticity of the Air, so it requires a much more potent phantasy to keep the Elasticity of it within the precise lateral dimensions of the Atmospherical pillar in a straight line: for the Elastical particles of the Aereal parts, adjacent to that Atmospherical Cylinder, will incroach and break it upon this Cylinder, and disorder and refract its pressure, besides what the concussion of Winds would effect.

4. But suppose in the free Air the *pondus deprimens* of the Atmospherical Cylinder were too hard for its Elatery,  
and

so although in an inclosed Glas the Elatery doth the whole business in suspending the Mercury in the Tube, yet in the open Air the *pondus deprimens* conquers its Elasticity, and the whole *phenomenon* shall be there performed by the *pondus deprimens* of the aerial Cylinder: I say such a Supposition as this would render the lower parts of the Air unmoveable, and bind it up so, that it could never stir without an admirable relaxation of it by the violence of heat, which is contrary to all the experience of the World. For we see by the smallest winds the motion of Smoak, and a thousand Instances more, the lower parts of the Air are in a perpetual flux and motion, which it could never do, if under so rigorous a constipation and compression by its superior parts. And though this immediately contradicts the great pressure of the inferior Air by the superior, yet by necessary consequence it contradicts the supposed Elasticity thereof.

5. But as to the very instance before given, of the suspension of the Mercury in



in a Tube placed in a closed Glass Receiver, protected from the impendent aerial ponderous Cylinder; I say, that the suspension of the Mercury is not caused either by the Weight or the Elatery of the Air. Not by its weight, because the Atmospherical column is intercepted, and kept off by the interposition of the Glass; it remains therefore that it must be done by the Elatery or Spring of the Air included in the vessel: but that cannot possibly do it, for these Reasons. 1. Because that Elatery that must sustain the column of Mercury, cannot be an Elatery pressing upward or laterally, but it must be such an Elatery, as must press downward, to bear against the excursion of the suspended column of Mercury, and thereby keep it *in equilibrio*: and certainly if there be any Elatery of the Air, it must bear rather upward against what presseth it down, and cauleth it, than downward. 2. But if it be said that by the Receiver, or Glass inclosing the Air every way, the Elatery is as well turned downward as upward, and so counterpoiseth the column

lumn of Mercury, and so it is not like the recoil of the Spring of the Air from the Earth, which must be principally upward, because checked and reverberated at its base; but here the repercussion is from all parts of the Glass, as well from above as beneath. I say this very objection renders it utterly impossible, that the Elatery of the Air in the Glass can cause this Suspension, or in any measure contribute to it. For let us suppose the Glass Receiver to be spherical, the repercussion of the Elatery of the Air must be equal from all parts: the consequence whereof must necessarily be, that this Elatery presseth as well upwards as downward, and from every part of the Spherical cavity of the Glass, the consequence whereof must needs be, that the whole Elatery is in suspence, and one Elastical line breaks, refracts, and retunds another; so that the tendency of this Elasticity is neither upwards nor downwards, nor from any point of the Compass, but all things are at rest, as where Winds blow with an equal strength every way, the  
Air

Air is undisturbed, and so no pressure at all made upon the Mercury, but it is but a meer evasion to shore up an *hypothesis*.

CHAP. XIII.

*Certain Experiments, evincing that the common Air in its ordinary consistence, hath no, or no considerable Elasticity or Spring, without an accidental or preternatural Compression.*

IN the former Chapter I have given the reasons against the wonderful Elasticity of the Air, or Atmosphere, and the insufficiency of that Supposition to give a Solution to the *phenomena* in the *Torricellian Experiment*. And I now come to some experimental Instances, farther illustrating and proving what I have said in the former Chapter, namely that either there is no Elasticity at all in the common Air, nor in any part thereof inclosed in the vessel, *de quo supra*, or if any at all, yet very little,



tle, and such as is no ways able to keep such a column of Mercury suspended, which may possibly weigh according to the amplitude of the Tube two or three pounds, which yet we see suspended in the *Torricellian* Experiment.

For it is a certain and demonstrable truth, that if any *potentia*, be it what it will, sustains a weight or *pondus depressens*, the *potentia sustentans* must be of an equal strength to that weight, otherwise it must give way, and yeild to it.

Therefore if the *potentia* of the Elasticity of the common Air (not compressed or constipated accidentally) be not equal in this instance to two pound of Mercury, it can never sustain or keep it suspended: and this is that which I shall endeavour to make good.

*Fig. 12.* Take a Bottle-Glass *A*, fill it with Water to *B*, which may contain about six Ounces of Water, the rest of the Bottle full of Air; then take the Bolts-head *C*, heat it very hot, that the Air may be in a great measure driven

out of it, and the rest highly rarified and expanded: Invert it into the Glass Bottle, so that the free Air may come in, (though but at a Pin-hole,) as the Air in the Bolts-head grows cool, and consequently contracted neer to its natural size and state: the Air thus rarified, the Water in the Bottle will be drawn up into the Bolts-head to supply the vacancy, which otherwise would happen by the restitution of the Air. But if the fissure between the Bottle and Shank of the Bolts-head had been hastily so closed, that no Air could enter into it, some Water would arise as suppose to *D*, but the whole Water would never be driven up out of the Bottle by any Elatery of the Air included in it; but only the superior Air in *C*, being so highly rarified by the heat, that one third part of the Air in *C*, as it stood unrarified, takes up the whole Bolts-head by rarification; and as the Air in the Bolts-head grows to its natural temper, and consequently endeavours to retract it self to its natural dimension, so having the fluid Water to work upon, it draws it up, and by

198 **O**bservations touching the

the advantage of that attraction gives a tension or expansion to the Air in the upper part of the Bottle, as much as is capable to be obtained by the strength of the attraction and suction of the rarified Air in the Bolts-head, which drawing up the Water, and leaving less Water there than before, must needs expand the inclosed Air in the top of the Bottle, to supply that recess.

Now if the Air in the head of the Bottle, being taken out of the common Air, and of the same consistence with it, had that strong Elatery that these men suppose, so that it reacheth as it were after a dimension five, nay forty times larger than that it hath, it would thrust up the whole Water in the Bottle as high as *E*, as it would have done if the fissure between the Bolts-head and the Bottle had not been strictly closed.

And this it should have done the rather, because the superior Air is so much rarified, that it takes up three times the room of common unexpanded Air, and so is capable of a more effectual impression from the Air in the Bottle, and  
would



*Torricellian Experiment.* 199

would not rest at *D*, but drive up the Water as high as *E*.

And if any shall say, that the weight of the interposed Water is too great for its Elatery, to thrust it up as high as *E*; certainly he that shall suppose that the Elatery of the Air, included in a close Receiver, is able to thrust and keep a column of Mercury to twenty nine Inches high, which column weighs possibly a pound or more, cannot doubt but the Elatery of the Air in the top of the Bottle, if it were of that force that these men suppose, would thrust up five or six Ounces of Water, about five or six Inches high, into the Bolts-head.

But the plain truth is, that in this instance, nor any of the like nature, it is neither the weight nor the Elatery of the Air included in the Bottle, that forceth up any drop of Water above its Superficies, but the powerful attraction of the expanded Air in the Bolts-head, endeavouring its own contraction when growing cold, and so attracting the Water to supply that *casua*, that would otherwise follow upon its attraction.

And therefore when by the descent of the Mercury a little portion of Air in the top of the Tube in the *Torricellian* Engin, gains four or five times a greater extent than it had before; this is done by the tension of that little aerial Cylinder, by the force of the descent of the Mercury, as shall be more at large shewn hereafter, and not as is groundlessly supposed by the natural Elasticity or expansion of that portion of Air. For if that should be the cause, it were necessary that the finger stopping the top of the inverted Tube open at both ends, should be thrust up, and not drawn in, and an empty Bladder should be more compressed than distended by such Elasticity of the included Air, the contrary whereof is evident both to Sense and Experience.

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## CHAP. XIV.

*The consideration of some Arguments for  
the weight and Elatery of the Air.*

I Shall not spend much time upon These arguments, but only note some general Observations upon them, and then single out some Instances wherein I shall be more particular.

In general therefore I say,

1. That all those Instances and Experiments produced to prove such a Weight or Elasticity of the free Air, that may be capable of effecting the *phenomena* in the *Torricellian* Experiment, yea or in the *Magdeburgh* Instrument, or the *English* Air-pump, are all capable of another Solution, as appears by the answers that *Linus* hath given to them, which I need not repeat.

2. That the application of the Weight and Elasticity of the Air to the Solution of these *phenomena*, is forced, streined, and in many instances contra-

ry



ry to the evidence of Sense; so that though the appearances themselves are true, yet those Causes assigned are very inevident, full of difficulties and absurdities, and require such a train of supplemental Suppositions to make them but tolerably applicable, that no man disengaged from a party can easily subscribe to them.

3. That there are some Instances and Experiments that are so untractable to this method of Solution, that all the inventions of the most Mercurial wits and highest engaged in the patronage thereof, cannot by any means relieve it.

4. That the plain and common Solution of them by the inseparability of Bodies, and the *fuga vacui*, (pleasantly by some stiled *decantata olim fuga vacui*) doth most naturally, and without any stress offered to Sense or Nature, answer all Instances and difficulties, and fails in none.

5. That it is most evident to any man, that without prejudice or partiality shall observe it, all or the most part of those Instances and Experiments, which

which (to serve the *hypothesis* of the gravitation and Elasticity of the common Air) are resolved into Pression or Elasticity of the Air, are plainly performed by Suction and Attraction of the Air, when put under a great tension or rarification, which wholly subverts the Solution by Pressure or Elasticity of the Air.

Now as to some particular Instances.

First, we are told that the *Torricellian* Engin, wherein at the bottom of the hill, the Mercury riseth to twenty nine Inches and half, carried up to the top of the hill *Puy de dome* in *France*, subsided three Inches: and some Instances of like nature given in *Lancashire*, it subsides neer two Inches. From whence it is inferred, that this variation ariseth, because upon the top of the Mountain, which was 3000 foot high, the column of the Atmosphere was shorter, and so gravitated less upon the restagnant Mercury, than it did at the bottom of the hill, which caused the disparity of the position.

I answer, admitting the fact true, yet  
the

the cause assigned is *non causa pro causa*, or at least we have no sufficient evidence that this is the cause.

The various Elevation or depression of the Mercury is not in respect of the height or lowness of the place, where the Instrument is used, but in respect of the temperament of the Air wherein it is used. The Excellent Author tells us, in his eighteenth Experiment, that the *Torricellian* Engin placed in his Chamber window for a good season, the Mercury had various Elevations and subsidings, according to the temper of the Air; and that this variation was considerable, namely two Inches, and that in cold weather, contrary to the use of other Weather-Glasses, it fell much lower than at other times. And if this be so, it is no wonder, at the top of the hill, where the Air was much colder, it might subside considerably from the height it had at the bottom.

But whether it were colder or hotter, yet certainly there is that difference of temperament in the various regions of the Air, that might make a various position



position in the Mercury. What if we should say, that the *vis igne penetrativa* *Aetheris* is stronger there than below the hill, and so might strongly dilate that small portion of Air upon the top of the hill, though the sense of heat be there less?

But I cannot chuse but observe, that if we should assign this Subsidency of three Inches of Mercury to the shortning of the Atmospherical Cylinder, by 500 Fathoms of perpendicular height, we must necessarily conclude the great mistakes in the computation of the gravitable Air or Atmosphere, and must render it of a prodigious height beyond all the Estimates of the latter Elaterists, whereof some tell us it is seven Miles high. By others Computation that it is 33893 Feet, which is 5648 Fathoms, somewhat less than seven Miles.

But if a Mile next the Earth should abate but three Inches in the height of the Mercury, six Miles more would hardly abate three Inches more, *viz.* six Inches; nor twenty four Miles more would

would abate nine Inches. For a Mile of Air next the Earth (if the gravitation of the Air should be admitted) would more than ten times counterpoise the next Mile about it, because it hath these advantages, 1. of the greater incumbent weight of the superior Air, 2. of the stubborn resistance of the terrestrial Globe, whereby it is more constipated and bound together the nearer it is to its reflexion and repercussion. 3. The great concrement and accession that it hath of grosser vapors, and terrestrial effluxes, wherewith the lower parts must needs be more laden than the upper; so that from the first gravitating particle of Air or Atmosphere to the lowest, it will increase by a Geometrical Progression in every part, as 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, or very near it, which will render the lowest Mile prodigiously more weighty than any of the superior Miles.

But I dismiss this business of the gravitation of the free Air as a meer Notion.

The Instances to prove the Elasticity of the Air, are for the most part such as  
are

are endeavoured to be made out by the tension or rarification of the Air by the Wind-pump, or *Magdeburgh* Instrument. And the answer to any one of them gives an answer to all, for the application of them to the Elasticity or Spring of the included Air is bottomed upon one common mistaken ground. I shall therefore mention but one or two of them.

The Excellent Author in his Book of *Physico-Mechanical* Experiments, *Exp.* 5. gives an account, how a dry Bladder well tied, and blown moderately full, and fastned into the inside of the Receiver in the Air-pump, upon a strong exhaustion of the Pump was broken; and in the 16<sup>th</sup> Experiment, a Glass included in the Receiver, broken by the exhausting of the Air. And in the Continuation of new Experiments, *Exper.* 7 and 9, the same Instance of breaking of included Bladders and Glasses is repeted, and attributed always to the natural dilatation of the internal Air included in the Glass and Bladder, the circumjacent Air being rarified by tension.

But



But the true Solution of both is quite another matter. The Bladder is dilated by the attraction wrought by the tensed or expanded Air, upon the outside of the Bladder, and thereby the included Air necessarily expanded by that force, stretching out the sides of the Bladder that includes it, and when it is capable of no greater stretching it breaks, not by the natural expansion of the included Air, but by the strong tension wrought upon the Bladder by the attraction of rarified or tensed Air in the Receiver, that tears the Bladder.

And as to the Sealed Glass-bubble, the fracture thereof with that violence is not by the natural Elasticity of the Air included in it, but by the strong attraction wrought upon every part of its external Superficies, by the tension of the strongly circumjacent tensed Air in the Receiver.

And therefore if the Bladder or Bubble were filled with Water, and closed fast, (which is not capable of any natural Elasticity) I make little question but the strong attraction of the expanded  
Air

Air in the Receiver would break the Glass and Bladder, especially if it have any angles, (though I confess I cannot be very confident of what I never tried.)

And yet if it should succeed according as I suppose, though the natural Elasticity of included Air would be thereby convinced of untruth; I expect there must be another expedient invented by the Elaterists to salve it, viz. as prodigious a weight in the included Water, as there is supposed an Elasticity in the included Air.

In the late Book intituled, *New Experiments about the Pressure and Spring of Air upon Bodies under Water*, Experiment the second I find this Experiment, which is to the effect following.

Take a Bladder, and squeezing out the greatest part of its Air, tye the neck very close, and fastning a competent Weight to it, place it in a great large Glass, and placing that Glass upon the Air-pump, fill it with Water, and then covering the Glass with a large Receiver well luted to the Pump, the Air pumped out of the large Receiver, the

P                      Bladder

210 Observations touching the

Bladder below the Water would gradually swell, 'till by often pumping out the Air, the Bladder would be full blown. And the Supposition is this, that the Air being highly rarified and extended in the Receiver, whereby the strength of its counterpressure or Spring was weakned and abated; the little portion of Air in the Bladder, notwithstanding the interposition of the Water, having the advantage thereby of expanding it self, did accordingly fill up the Bladder.

The truth of the fact is unquestionable, but the Solution of it by the natural Spring of the Air in the Bladder, is an assignation of *non causa pro causa*; but the true Cause is, that by the strong tension of the Air in the Receiver, it lays hold and attracts upon all the parts of the Water, and all that is included in it, and the Bladder being within the reach of that forcible attraction, hath its sides thereby distended, and the included portion of Air expanded and rarified by the tension upon the Bladder; not by any natural Elasticity of the included



cluded Air, but by the forcible attraction wrought upon the external Superficies of the Bladder, and pulling it asunder, whereby the included Air by the common Law of Nature is necessarily expanded to prevent a vacuity.

And as if there had been no Water interposed, the Bladder would thus have been extended, and the Air included in it expanded, by the strong attraction of the rarified Air in the Receiver; so the same effect will as necessarily ensue, notwithstanding the interposition of the body of Water: for that *vis attractiva* of the expanded Air in the Receiver, though it immediately fasten upon the Superficies of the Water in the vessel, yet thereby and therewith it also pervades the whole body of the Water, which being a fluid body hath thereby a tension made upon it, and all its parts, and all that is included in it.

And the truth of this appears beyond dispute, for the Learned Author in his 19, 21, 22, 23, &c Experiments, tells us, and that truly, that by this pumping and rarifying of the Air in the great Re-

ceiver, Water, Spirit of Wine, &c. will be raised to run out of a Glass included in it, & that bubbles will thereby be formed at the bottom of the included vessel of Water: whereof the true cause (whatever be otherwise assigned) is the forcible attraction of the tensed and expanded Air in the Receiver upon the included Water, which strongly pervades the whole body of Water, penetrates to the very fund or bottom of it, and puts it altogether into a various agitation.

And therefore as this attraction pervades the whole body of water, so it pertingeth to the included Bladder in the very same manner as it doth upon the Water, though with a more sensible extumescence of the Bladder, because more capable of it.

We need not resort to a more evident Instance than that common and ludicrous Experiment, yet taken notice of by *Regius*, of immersing the small end (*Fig. 13.*) of a lighted Tobacco-pipe *B* under Water in a Vial, and sucking another Pipe *C*, not touching the water.

the

*Torricellian Experiment.* 213

the Glass being closely covered, the strong attraction of the Mouth upon the one Pipe will, through the Water upon the orifice of the immersed Pipe, draw the Smoak into the other, notwithstanding the interposition of the Water, and will put all the parts of the Water, to the very bottom of it, and the granules of Sand lying at the bottom of the Water, into motion and elevation, as in the Figure.

And the very same Answer is most clearly to be given to the third and fourth Experiments in that place, and to others of like nature, without recurring to an imaginary natural Elasticity in a small portion of included Air, whereby to expand it self without any forcible attractions to such a prodigious amplitude.

And thus I have done with what I have to say against the Solution of the *Torricellian* Experiment, either by the Weight or Elasticity of the Air or Atmosphere; which to me seems a Supposition contradictory to our very Senses, a Supposition attended with infi-



214. **O**bservations touching the  
nite absurdities and inexplicable diffi-  
culties.

And yet, as I have before said, it is  
wonderful to see with what tenacity,  
and with how great confidence it is as-  
serted, and how marvellously it hath  
obtained among the *gens literata*, and  
what Systems of new Physicks, what  
rare trains of Consequences, what Pro-  
positions, *porismata*, *Scholia*, it hath mul-  
tiplied! wherein if the Foundation it  
self prove but a mistake, men have spent  
much labour in vain upon it.

Therefore laying aside this Solution  
as untrue, I proceed to that which the  
more steady Modern Philosophers, con-  
sonant to the ancient Principles, have  
given in this case, and seems to be most  
consonant to truth.

## CHAP.

## CHAP. XV.

*Concerning the true Cause of the suspension of the Mercury at twenty nine Inches and half, or thereabout, in the Torricellian Engin.*

**I** Come now to consider of that cause of the suspension of the Mercury at twenty nine Inches and half, or thereabouts, in the *Torricellian Engin*.

They that assign the Diversity of the Weights of fluid Bodies, tell us ;

1. That although Air be intrinsically heavy, yet it is neer one thousand times, or as *Mersennus* will have it, about 1300 times lighter than the like quantity of Water ; and this they endeavour to evince by Experiments. But this Conclusion is very doubtful and difficult.

2. That Water is fourteen times, or very neer thereabout, lighter than Mercury, quantity for quantity, and this as it is easie to be tryed, so upon try-

al I find it very neer the truth, though Water it self in several places differeth somewhat in weight, and therefore it is not easie to make this the common standard for all Waters, though the difference be not considerably great.

Though Water be ordinarily fourteen times lighter than Mercury, yet this is not the just proportion of the suspension of one and the other in a Tube.

For if a Tube of Water, above one and thirty foot long, stopt above and immersed at the other end in restagnant Water, it will subside as is ordinarily said to thirty and one foot, others say more, whereof see the Experiment *apud Schottum in Technicis Curiosis, l. 3. cap. 2. Exper. 2, & 3.*

But in the case of Mercury, if the Tube of above twenty nine Inches and half long, suppose four foot, be stopt at the top, and immersed at the open end in restagnant Mercury, it will subside to twenty nine Inches and half, or thereabout.

But although in these two fluids, of this



this different gravity, the subsiding of either vary, yet the reason both of the subsiding and suspending of the one and the other will be the same.

Therefore what I say in relation to the suspension and subsiding of Mercury, will be in its reason applicable to the other, and therefore I shall here only treat of the suspending of Mercury, because the Instruments to try the Experiment in Water are more massy and untractable, but, as I said, the reason of one will be the reason of the other.

There be three Instances of the suspension of the Mercury in the *Torricellian* Engin, which though they all are resolvible into one common reason, yet that reason hath a various application severally to them.

First, when the Tube exceedeth in length the ordinary station of the suspended Mercury, *viz.* twenty nine Inches and half, as suppose it be four foot long, and the Tube receive only thirty Inches of Mercury, or though the Tube be filled more than twenty nine Inches and half of Mercury, yet it is not

so

218 **Observations touching the**

so perfectly filled, but that there remains a portion of Air in the head of the Tube, upon its inverting into the restagnant Mercury.

In this Instance, if the portion of Air be so great before its Expansion, that being expanded by the descent of the Mercury, it can reach below twenty nine Inches and half, as suppose to 20, 23, 24 Inches or less, then the Mercury will subside to that scantlet that the portion of Air is extendible unto.

If the portion of Air be less than can be extended, below twenty nine Inches and half, or the distance be so great that the extension of that portion of Air cannot by its expansion supply a greater room than what just answers to that station: as suppose the Tube were above 4 foot long, and filled with Mercury all but half an Inch, and then inverted into the vessel of restagnant Mercury, whereby before its subsiding there would be about half an Inch of free Air in the head of the Tube; and by the descent of the Mercury to twenty nine Inches and half, if that little portion of  
Air

Air were yet so much as were capable of such an extension, it would be extended to that length, viz. eighteen Inches and half; but if that task were too hard for so small a portion of Air to be extended unto, then the same would be supplied by the subsidiary steams and *effluvia* out of the Mercury, to make a retreat for the Mercury, to a descent of twenty nine Inches and half, as hath been shewn, and shall now farther be declared in what follows.

In this Instance these things are to be noted. 1. That by the descent of the Mercury there is no vacuity left in the place derelicted by the Mercury, as hath been shewn *Chap.* 2. That there is no new Air admitted into the Tube *de foris*, as hath been shewn before, *Chap.* 3. But that little portion of Air is extended from the very head of the cavity of the Tube to the subsided Mercury, if it be of that substance that is capable of such an extension to the Mercurial station of twenty nine Inches and half; and if it be too little for such an extension, it is supplied by a suitable portion of



of the Mercurial steams, as hath been shewn. 4. But that extension or dilatation of that little portion of included Air, is not by any natural Elatery or expansion of its own, as hath been shewn in the two former Chapters, for it is a portion of the free Air; but it is a strong tension of that portion of included Air, to prevent that *casma* and separation of Bodies without any thing intervening, or the *fuga vacui*, so often mentioned by the Ancients. 5. And consequently, though in relation to the laws of the Universe, it be a natural expansion or dilatation of the Air in this circumstance, *in obsequium naturæ universalis*, yet in relation to the particular state and consistence of that portion of the Air thus expanded or tensed by the subsiding of the Mercury, it is forced and violent. As the erect posture of my Body is natural to me, while it makes one common composition with my Soul and Spirits, and *in Concreto*, though it be violent in relation to the *moles corporea* of my Body, which would otherwise fall down to the Earth. 6. And the consequence of  
this

this tension of the included portion of Air (considered conjunctly with the natural inseparability of the parts of the Universe, which is all one with that which the Ancients called *fuga vacui*) is the sustentation of the Mercury, that column of descended Air, which *Linus* not absurdly calls *funiculus*, being inseparably united, and adhering to the top of the Tube at one end, and to the Mercurial Cylinder at the other end, and this *funiculus aereus* not being capable to be extended farther than to twenty nine Inches and half, being the Mercurial station, by the force of the descent of the Mercury, sustains and holds it up at that station: and so the *pondus deprimens* of the Mercurial Cylinder is equal to the *potentia superne sustinens* of the Aereal descended Cylinder upon it, in a kind of *æquilibrium*, the Mercurial Cylinder by its natural motion endeavouring its descent downward, and the aereal column by a motion of restitution to its natural size and staple, retracting it as much as it may upward; and the same reason will hold of the portion of included

ded Air, be so much as is capable of an extension below twenty nine Inches and half of the Tube: but not sufficient by such a force to be dilated to a full depletion of the Mercury out of the Tube, as possibly to 20, 15, 10, or 5 Inches from the restagnant Mercury, in which case the Mercury will subside to such a degree, and no lower.

The reason therefore, 1. Why the Mercury subsides so low as twenty nine Inches and half, its usual station, (or lower, if the portion of included Air be greater, as is before said) is, because the weight of the descending Mercurial column is of that strength, to give the included Air that tension or dilatation. 2. Why it subsides no lower, is because when the Air hath attained its utmost tension that the descent of that column of Mercury can give it (which ordinarily is at the height of twenty nine Inches and half) that aerial descended Cylinder holds it there, and keeps it up to that height, the weight of the Mercury being now lessen'd.

And that this is the cause of its sustentation,



tation appears evidently by these few Instances. 1. If the Tube of Mercury in this sustentation be suddenly lifted up from the restagnant Mercury, there will be a strong resilitio of the Mercury towards the top of the Tube, that will endanger breaking it; as we see a Lute-string, if hanged upon a Nail, and overcharged with a Weight or strength at the lower end, by which it breaks in the middle, the upper part of it will forcibly *resilire* in its contraction to its ordinary size. 2. If the Tube be inclined to a Level in the same parallel line to twenty nine Inches and half of the erected Tube, whereby it loseth its weight by the incumbence that it hath upon the sides of the declined Tube, the Air will contract it self to its former consistency, which it had before that tension, being by this inclination of the Tube delivered from it.

And they that object against the tension of the Air in this case; because if it had a tension in length, as the Lute-string hath, it would have likewise a contraction in its breadth, and so would  
not

not fill the Tube, must remember that the Air is a tensible Body of such a nature, as is at the same time tensible in bredth as well as length, and in such its tension as closely adheres to the sides of the Tube, as it doth at one end to the top of the Tube, and at the other end to the Mercurial column.

I shall not here enlarge with Instances, to shew, that the tension of the Air, or any other tensible fluid Body necessarily effects attraction on the Bodies to which it is contiguous, but shall reserve that to the following Chapters: and I have been the longer in the explication of this Instance, because it fully opens the reason of the second Instance, which now next follows. Therefore,

2. The second Instance is, where a Tube closed at one end, above twenty nine Inches long, suppose it four foot long, is entirely filled with Mercury, and no Air admitted into it, and then inverted into a vessel of restagnant Mercury, without admission of any Air into it, either upon its inversion or immersion, (which though it be difficult, may

*Torricellian Experiment.* 225

may yet be done) in this case the Mercury will subside to twenty nine Inches and half in the Tube.

This derelicted space of eighteen Inches and half, is, as I have before said, filled with a Mercurial steam or vapor, extracted out of the Mercury it self, and abraded from it by the descent and compression of the parts of that Mercurial column, as I have before shewn *Chap.* and thereby likewise rarified or tensed, as the Air is in the former Instance.

And this being either real Air included within the pores of the Mercury, and expressed from it, or else a subtle Ingredient into the Mercurial composition, and extracted, and in its extraction dilated, as the Air is in the former Instance. It performs the same office in relation to the suspension of the Mercury, as the included extended Air did in the former Instance, and therefore it need not to be repeated.

Only I shall adde this farther, 1. That it appears the extraction of the subtle *effluvia*, and their dilatation, is perform-

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ed with a great stress or straining of them out of the Mercurial Body, and with little less labour extended; which appears by the slow descent of the Mercury, arising from the *lucta* or contest that grows between the weight of the Mercury descending on the one hand, and the straining and abrading of those subtle particles, and their tension or rarification of the other hand. And the like slow descent there appears in the first Instance, especially as the Mercury more and more subsides; for then the Mercury having neer acquired its ordinary station, grows lighter, and the strength of its pressure begins utterly to languish and decay too, being neer equally matched with the *potentia sustentans* of the extracted subtilized particles in this Instance, and by the tension of the Air in the former instance; the reason whereof shall be farther enlarged, when I come to the third Instance.

2. Whereas in the former Instance, by the inclining of the Tube, the Air regains its former contracted extent, here by the inclining of the Tube these sub-  
tle

the particles extracted out of the Mercury, and dilated, are not only contracted, but resumed into the Mercury from which they were extracted, as is shewn in the Chapter. 3. That upon the over sudden Elevation of the Tube out of the restagnant Mercury, there will be the like resiliation of the Mercury into the top of the Tube, as in the former instance.

By this *funiculus subtilis materiae* the Mercurial column is sustained at twenty nine Inches and half, as in the former Instance of the *funiculus aereus*.

But now how it comes to pass, that since there is yet remaining twenty nine Inches and half in the Tube, which doubtless hath a residue of subtle matter extractable out of it, to supply a greater room, that what is yet left above twenty nine Inches and half, how it comes to pass that by the weight of that twenty nine Inches and half of Mercury, there is not more of the Mercurial effluxes extracted and dilated, which may give a total descent and evacuation of the Mercurial column into the re-

restagnant Mercury remains to be considered, which shall be done in the third Instance which follows.

3. The third instance is, when the Tube is but just twenty nine Inches and half, or shorter, suppose 25, 20, 10, or 5 Inches long, and filled entirely with Mercury, and then inverted into the vessel of restagnant Mercury; in that case the entire Mercury will remain suspended, and remain contiguous to the top of the Tube, and no part will descend, neither will there be any such *funiculus* of Air or subtle Matter to connect it to the top of the Tube.

The reason of this is what in effect was given in the former instances, though the application be different.

First, if in this instance the Mercury should any whit subside, either it must leave the *interstitium* between it self and the top of the Tube vacant of any Body, or it must yeild some subtle matter to supply the place it leaves abraded from it self, as in the second Instance. And if it can do neither of these, *manet sors tertia*, only to continue its station united to the top of the Tube.

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*Toricellian Experiment.* 229

The former of these cannot be, for I have supposed, and shall further inforce the contradiction of the Law of the Universe to that Supposition.

Therefore it remains, that either there must be a subtle matter extracted out of the included Mercury, or of necessity the Mercury must hold its entire possession of the whole Tube.

Although the remote cause of this extraction of subtle parts out of the Mercury, in the second Instance, be that law of the Universe, to hold together the continuity of its parts; and consequently to avoid a *vacuum* or *casme* in the Universe destitute of matter; yet the immediate cause of this extraction and rarification is the descent of the Mercury from the station that it hath, and the weight of its Body is the cause of that descent.

And because it requires a strong compression of the Mercury, either to drive or draw out this subtle matter, and as it were to rake it out of the bowels of the Mercury, and to extend it, and consequently a strong weight to effect that

230 **Observations touching the**

compression and extension, if that weight which it hath at 29 Inches and half, or under, be not effective of such an abrasion or extension of the subtle matter so abraded, such abrasion or extension not being effectible by that weight, the column of Mercury must hold its position, and becomes its own *funiculus*, and remain suspended to the top of the Tube.

Now it seems, that although a Mercurial Cylinder of a height above thirty Inches, as suppose three or four foot, hath such a forcible pressure, weight, and gravitation upon the restagnant Mercury, not only to drive down the Mercurial Cylinder to twenty nine Inches and half, but also to extract and strain out of it, and extend a sufficient portion of subtle matter out of the Mercurial Body to supply the room it leaves, yet that the weight only of twenty nine Inches and half, or below it, will not be able to drive, or draw out, or extend a portion sufficient for that Exigent.

And that is the reason, why at twenty nine Inches and half, or under that

gage

gage, whether the Tube be just twenty nine Inches and half, or longer; yet the Mercurial Cylinder rests there, wanting a sufficient *potentia* below that station by its weight, to extract or to rarifie any of its subtile parts, to supply the place which then it should desert or leave.

And herein the bigness or smallness of the Glass Tube, or the Mercurial Cylinder included, makes no odds; though possibly according to the various diameters of the Tubes, one Cylinder of Mercury of 29 Inches and half high, may weigh five times another Cylinder of the same height, and yet both would remain suspended in the Tubes.

But the disparity of the *potentia depressans*; is from the disparity of the height of the Tube. And therefore the cause why the Cylinder of Mercury, filling a Tube of 3 or 4 foot long, will subside upon inversion unto twenty nine Inches and half, and there stay, is, because before its descent to that station, its *potentia* was sufficient to abrade and extend the subtile matter, but at twenty nine Inches and half that *potentia* was spent.

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And



232 Observations touching the

And therefore the reason why the Tube of twenty nine Inches and half, or under, doth not subside at all, but remains cohering to the top of the Tube, is, because it hath not that *potentia* at that gage to abrade from it self matter to supply that place, if it should leave it.

And for this purpose it will not be amiss to take notice of what *Galileus*, and after him the Excellent *Mersennus* have given us in relation to the disparity of the *motiva potestas* of the same fluid in different positions of height or elevation.

The acceleration of motion of heavy Bodies is *ut quadrata temporum*, in which they move downwards; as if in the first Minute, a Body moves one foot, in the second minute it will move four foot, *viz.* two times two; in the third minute nine foot, *viz.* three times three; or, which comes to all one account, heavy bodies in their descent, in every given portion of time, as a minute will percur portions of space *per numeros impares ab unitate*, as if in the first minute

nute it descend one foot, in the second it will descend three foot, in the third five foot, in the fourth minute seven foot, and so onward.

*Mersennus* partly upon this Theory, and partly upon his own experience, makes two Conclusions, (which I have experimentally found true) that are apposite to explicate what I mean in this matter.

First, if there be two vessels of equal height, but of differing diameters, and with an equal *lumen* or hole in the bottom of each of them, and both filled with Water; the smaller vessel will in the same portion of time empty from it self as great a quantity of Water as the greater, for the Gravitation of the Water upon the *Lumen* is *secundum altitudinem*, not *secundum latitudinem vasis*: and upon the same account it is, that if the *lumen* be at the side, and the vessels be placed in the same horizontal parallel, the Parabolical line made by salient Water out of each vessel, will be of the same length and amplitude.

2. That if there be two Tubes or vessels

234 **O**bservations touching the  
vessels of Water, *A* and *B*, of the  
height of nine foot, containing nine  
Gallons of Water, and *B* were a vessel  
of sixteen foot containing sixteen Gal-  
lons of Water, and each vessel had a  
small *lumen* in the side next to the Base,  
of equal bigness, and of that bigness,  
that were there but one Gallon in the  
Tube, it would empty that Gallon in  
one minute. In these Instances, *A* fil-  
led with Water would empty five Gal-  
lons in the first minute, three Gallons  
in the second minute, and one Gallon in  
the last minute. Again *B*, if filled with  
Water, would empty seven Gallons in  
the first minute, five in the second mi-  
nute, and three in the third minute, *viz.*  
*in ratione subduplicata altitudinis.* And  
this I have experimentally found to be  
true.

The consequence whereof is, that e-  
very fluid Body the higher it is eleva-  
ted, hath the greater and more effectual  
pressure by its position upon its lower  
parts or other fluid, than what barely  
ariseth from its weight: so that in a co-  
lumn of Mercury in a Tube of four foot  
high,



*Torricellian Experiment.* 235

high, though the lowest foot and the highest foot of Mercury be of an equal weight, yet the pressure of the uppermost or fourth foot, which I call its *potentia deprimens*, is to the third as seven to five, and the third to the second is as five to three, and the second to the first as three to one, namely when it hath a liberty of descending motion, as the Mercury hath in this Experiment; for the intermediate weight contributes to the pressure of the uppermost foot.

And hence it is that the power to separate and segregate, and strain, and extend the subtle matter out of the Mercury, is vigorous and effective in a Mercurial column of 4 foot high, and gradually is less and less 'till it come to twenty nine Inches and half; and then though it hath a considerable Gravitation, yet it is not equal to effect such a separation, and therefore must needs stand suspended at that height, or leave a *vacuum* behind it, which the Catholick laws of the Universe do not permit.

And thus far touching the Explication of the Solution, which seems to me  
to

236 **O**bservations touching the  
to be the true Solution of the *Torricelli-*  
*an* Experiment.

And in the next place I shall subjoin  
some Instances that seem to me to con-  
firm it, and answer some Objections that  
are made against it.

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## CHAP. XVI.

*Concerning the two Suppositions that are ne-  
cessary to maintain this Solution, viz.  
Natures abhorrence of vacuum, and the  
Attraction of tensible fluids, or other bo-  
dies when under a tension.*

**T**Here are two Suppositions that are  
necessary to be proved, to render  
the Solution above given evident or  
probable. 1. The exclusion of a *vacuum*  
or space in the Universe wholly empty  
of any Body. 2. That any Body, capa-  
ble of tension, or rarification by tension,  
(such as are the Air and thin *effluvia* of  
Mercury) to be attractive upon the con-  
tiguous Bodies, when actually under  
that tension.

1. As

1. As to the former of these, I need not much labour for it, upon two reasons. 1. Because there have been large Tractates upon this Position, and to repeat them would be but *actum agere*. 2. Because the exclusion of the Gravitation and Elasticity of the Air, invented or substituted by the modern Elaterists, doth necessarily conclude, that there can be no *vacuum* in Nature; for all those Experiments and Instances, which they produce to prove that Gravitation or Elasticity, and by which they go about to solve them, must (if those Solutions prove untrue, or ineffectual) of necessity maintain that ancient Peripatetical position, because they are incapable of any other Solution. And in my judgment that Gravitation and Elasticity of the common Air is sufficiently convinced by what hath been before said touching it.

And when I meet with those Objections that I find used by Learned men, namely how the Mercury or Water comes to know there will be a *vacuum*, if they do not leave their natural Gravity,



vity, and so ascend or remain suspended to supply it, and how those stupid inanimate Elements or Minerals come to understand, that Nature so much abhorreth a *vacuum*; are much of the same kind, as if a man should ask the Sun, if it move according to *Ptolemy*; or the Earth, if according to *Copernicus* it move; how they came to know that when they come to the Northern Tropicke, they must move again to the Southern Tropicke? or when it hath touched the Southern Tropicke, it knows that it must come back to the Northern, and steer its course accordingly? Or as if a man should ask, how doth the Stone understand that he must descend, when yet all the men in the world can never give any satisfactory reason for its motion to the Earth, more than to the Moon, but only Nature that is the *principium motus & quietis*, or rather the God of Nature, whose standing and statuminated Law Nature is, hath so order'd it, and ordered so in the best way for the use, beauty, and accommodation of the Universe. The plain truth of it is, the  
very

very consideration of the many attempts that have been made to explicate the reason of the descent of heavy Bodies, is enough to let us see, that we tire our selves in vain to determine the clear reason of it, without resolving it into the statuminated Law of Nature: though the Stone and the Earth are inanimate, or at least unreasonable Bodies, such kind of Objections therefore as these are fond and weak.

2. As to the second, namely the attraction of Bodies extended, whether by rarification or tension, especially of the Air, or this subtle matter that ariseth from the Mercury. This affection and effect is as natural as any thing in Nature, as is truly observed by the learned *Fabri, in primo tractatu physico, prop. 205, 206, 208.* For a strict contiguity in all parts of several Bodies is a kind of continuity of the Universe and all its parts; neither can I imagine how those that are fond of the *Epicurean hypothesis*, can better maintain the cohesion of the parts of solid bodies, their *atomi hamati* being but fancies of what men never saw in them. The

The Air is the common cement and connecter of the different parts of this inferior world at leſt, and ſtrictly interpoſeth between their fiſſures and *interſtitia*, to maintain a kind of common continuity between the different parts of the Universe, and makes it as it were one continued Body.

But to come to particular Inſtances, which ſhall not be laborious but familiar and common, to evince this coheſion of the parts of tenſed or rarified Air, and the contraction that it makes upon contiguous bodies, in its endeavour of reſtitution to its natural ſtate and conſiſtence.

I. The inſtance of Cupping-glaſſes, where the Air is highly rarified or evacuated by the included burning Tow, and applied to the fleſh, draws up the fleſh ſtrongly unto it, when by the extinction of the Tow the rarified Air contracts it ſelf to a narrow room, which can be no otherwiſe than by the coheſion of the particles of Air to the ſkin, and driving it in to the Glaſs, while it contracts it ſelf to a narrower

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*Torricellian Experiment.* 241

compass. And certainly they that tell us, that this is done by the pressure of the ambient Air upon the contiguous flesh, which thrusts it up into the Glass, either do not believe themselves while they say it, or are so transported with a love unto or ingagement for their beloved *hypothesis*, of the prodigious gravitation of the free Air, that they are content to say any thing in its behalf.

*Qui amant ipsi sibi somnia fingunt.*

*Shottus* (who while he wrote his *mirabilia hydraulica*, was well satisfied with the Solution of the *Torricellian Experiment* by the common Solution of *fuga vacui*) was indeed afterward, when he wrote his *mirabilia Magdeburgica*, converted to the new Solution, being not willing it seems to be thought to see less in Nature than the new Tribe of *Virtuosi* that were concerned in that Engine. But for all that, this Instance of Cupping-glasses was too hard for that new Solution, and were fairly fain to have recourse to the *decantata fuga vacui*, or else it must stand unsolved, and so must any else that means an impartial and

242 **Observations touching the**  
unpreingaged search into Nature.

2. If an empty Bladder be tied close about the neck, and fastned to the top of the Tube, Hermetically sealed in the *Torricellian* Experiment, upon the subsiding of the Mercury the Bladder will be expanded, not by the natural Elatery of the little particle of included Air, but by the strong attraction of the tensed Air in the Tube, by the descent of the Mercury, whereof before.

3. The Instance given in the tenth Chapter, of the Tube heated, and appended to a Ballance, so as it touch the Water, the Water rising in the Tube, the Tube will be drawn down, which is only done by the adhesion of the two extremes of the inclosed rarified Air, the one Extreme laying hold upon the top of the cavity of the Tube, the other end laying hold of the Water, and drawing it up, and therewith necessarily drawing the Tube down, whilst the included Air is contracting it self to its natural and narrower dimensions.

And because the Experiment made by a wide-mouth'd Glais would yeild some

*Torricellian Experiment.* 243

some discoveries of this attraction by the rarified Air, which are not so visible in so narrow a Tube, I took a Beer-glass, as in the *Figure 14*, and suspended it by a Thrid to one Scale of the Ballance, and weighing it with a weight in the opposite Scale, and found it weigh two Ounces and half; then, as we used when we were School-boyes, sticking up a Candle in a Bason, I let down the Glass over the Candle contiguous to the Superficies of the Water, the Candle going out there was a portion of Water drawn up into the Glass, the Air upon the Candles going out, and the Glass drawn down into the Water, the included Air being under a cause of rarification, namely by the heat of the Candle, and by the extinction of the Flame now gradually contracting it self, and thereby drawing up the Water to supply that place.

The water drawn up into the glass was about half an Inch; we marked exactly the weight that was required now to lift up this Glass and included water was an addition of 4 Ounces and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an

R 2      ounce



244 **Observations touching the**

Ounce; so that the whole weight that raised the Glass and Water inclosed, and severed it from the Water beneath, was six Ounces  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{8}$  of an Ounce, and then, though not without reluctance, the Glass was raised out of the Water.

Then taking the exact quantity of other Water, equall to that formerly included in the Glass, (which was not difficult to do by the help of the remaining Mark) we weighed it, and found it to weigh exactly three Ounces and half, and a very few Grains.

So that the weight of the Glass and inclosed Water amounting to six Ounces, there was requisite an addition of about half an Ounce to sever the Glass from the Superficies of the restagnant Water, which did apparently to the eye and touch adhere together, notwithstanding the counterpoise of six Ounces, equal to the weight of the Glass and included Water.

And this half Ounce of additional weight was due purely to the adhesion of the glass, Air, & inclosed water to the Superficies of the restagnant Water.

1. It

1. It seems evident, that not only the Glass, but the Water included in it, gravitates upon the Scale, for the counterpoise of six Ounces in the opposite Scale, equals the weight both of the Glass and Water inclosed in it, which could not be, unless both contributed to the *equipondium*.

2. That it is impossible that the included Water could gravitate upon the Scale, unless the rarified Air were contiguous and cohering to the top of the Glass, and also to all the parts of it included within the cavity of the Glass above the Superficies and whole body of the included Water, and also firmly adhered to the Superficies of the included Water, for they all make up but one common weight, and there must be a *vinculum* that must connect the Glass and the inclosed Water, and otherwise they could not gravitate together; so that the *vinculum* that binds the Water to the Glass is this *funiculus* (as *Linus* well calls it) of the rarified Air, as the Thrid is the *vinculum* that binds the Glass to the Scale: for otherwise the

246 **Observations touching the**

Glass would be only raised, and leave the Water to subside into the vessel of restagnant Water, and would never hold an *equipondium* to more than two Ounces and a half, which was the just weight singly of the Glass.

But as for the fancy above mentioned, Chap. 10. that it is not the Glass and Water that make up the weight of six Ounces, but the Glass and the column of Air incumbent upon it, the vanity of that imagination is sufficiently convinced in that Chapter.

3. That consequently, the included rarified Air thus fastning upon the cavity of the Glass and the included Water by a strict cohesion, according to the nature of tensed fluids, contracting it self as much as it can by its motion of restitution, draws up the Water in the vessel into the Glass, and raiseth it as high, 'till there be an *equilibrium* between the *pondus naturale deprimens* of the Water, and the *potentia sustinens* of the Air, thus now contracting it self, and indeavouring its restitution to its just natural dimension,

4. As



4. As a specimen of this cohesion of the Air and Water included in the Glass, there is also a cohesion of the Limb of the Glass and the included Water unto the Superficies of the restagnant Water, which requires half an Ounce of weight to break that continuity between the upper and lower Water. And no other imaginable cause can be assigned for it, but that *Natura agrè patitur disjunctionem partium continui.*

And as with the hand you lift up the Glass towards the Superficies of the restagnant Water, the Water included will rise with it much above the Superficies of the external Water, which cannot be by the imaginary pressure of the external Air, but by the adhesion of the column of Water to the included tensed Air, and of that to the concave Superficies of the Glass *per modum unius continui*, which any man's tryal will make more plain and evident to him, than words in writing can easily express.

But some exception is taken to the word *funiculus*, and we are asked what Grappers there are belonging to this *funiculus*,

248 **O**bservations touching the  
*niculus*, that can so steadily lay hold of  
the Water and the Glass, and hold them  
thus tight together?

And I must confess, that I wonder,  
that any that approves the Atomical or  
Epicurean Philosophy, can make that  
Question, since all their pretence of the  
cohesion of the imaginary Atomical  
Particles in any the most solid *continu-*  
*um*, are certain *atomi hamati*, that in-  
terlock one in another, which yet they  
never saw.

But let it be: I answer, the power  
of the laws of Nature are so efficacious,  
that they can and do colligate strictly  
parts even of most distant textures  
and consistences, without the help of  
Vellicle, Hooks, or Grappers. What  
are the Hooks or Grappers, whereby  
the Humane Soul and Body, yea the  
Souls and Bodies of Animals are knit  
together, whereby the Bloud and the  
Spirits are colligated, whereby the Load-  
stone attracts the Iron, notwithstanding  
an interposed Plate of Brass or body of  
impervious Glass, and a thousand more  
Instances of Attraction between Bodies,  
without

without the intervention of sensible Grappers and Hooks, or such gross Mechanismes.

This, and some other as light as this, and some toying with the word *funiculus*, are the greatest Objections that I find against what *Linus* hath in this matter delivered, which seem to me of no moment. Words were made to render Conceptions of things, and if they do that, they do their office.

And thus far concerning the Solution of the *Torricellian* Engin. I shall adde a few words, as I promised, touching the cohesion of two polished Marbles, and the insufficiency of the Solution thereof given by the Elaterists, and the truth of the ancient Solution thereof.



## CHAP. XVII.

*Concerning the Cause of the Cohesion of two polished Marbles.*

There are two Experiments, for the Solution whereof the Gravitation and Elatery of the Air is by the late Philosophers applied, which in this last place I shall examine according to my premised method.

The first is that of the cohesion of two polished Marbles. For instance, take two polished Marbles, of one dimension and figure, and exactly in the centre of each Marble let there be a Ring, whereby to suspend the upper, and whereby a weight may be appended to the lower. These two Marbles, especially if their smooth sides be a little oyled, and applied each to other, will adhere so strongly together, that the upper being suspended by its Ring to a post or frame, (*Fig. 15.*) the lower will sustain a weight of 20, 30, or 40 pounds, though the Marbles

Marbles be not above three Inches diameter.

And as it will do this in the open Air, it will also perform the same, though the Marbles be inclosed within a close large Glass-Receiver, whereby it is severed from the common Air, or any impending column of the Atmosphere.

The reason that the vulgar Philosophers were wont to give in these cases are these :

First, [as to the strict cohesion of the two Marbles, they give this reason ; that the cohesion is *obfugam vacui*. For if they should be severed by the appended weight, the separation of them would be in the same indivisible moment, because they do *contingere in puncto*.

And in as much as all Bodies move successively, and not in an instant, it would be impossible for the circumambient Air in the moment of the separation of these two Marbles, to pervade the whole *interstitium* that would happen upon the first separation, and consequently there would be a mean time wherein the *interstitium* would remain empty,

252 **Observations touching the**

empty, therefore the cohesion is so obstinate to prevent that monster in Nature, namely *vacuum*.

And to evidence that this is the reason, they say that if the aperture be attempted at the sides, either by pulling them at one side, or by appending the weight more to one side than the other, they are easily separated, because that aperture makes an Angle, (*Fig. 16:*) and gradually admits the Air into it; for then the aperture is not all at once, but is *apertio continuata* from the first opening. For although if the Base of the acute Angle, *viz.* *A*, were but a hairs breadth, the Angle were divisible Mathematically unto the uttermost extremity of it; yet it is not so Physically, it but gains a successive latitude, according as it gradually opens, and so is accommodated Physically to a successive intromission of the Air: but if the aperture were altogether, the separation in all parts of the Superficies must be Physically as well as Mathematically in the same instant, which were too quick to give an admission to the successive motion



tion of the aery body in the same instant.

But now we will consider what Solutions the late Philosophy gives in this instance.

Namely 1. That in the free and open Air there is an impending column of Atmosphere, reaching from the summit thereof to the upper Marble, and commensurate in its diameter and circumference to the *area* of the upper Marble that presseth it, with an excessive weight downwards, and so upon the upper Hemisphere if suspended parallel to the Horizon.

2. That again there is a returning or recoiling Cylinder of Air, reaching from the Superficies of the Earth upwards, of as great a *potentia sustinens* as the superior column of Atmosphere hath a *pondus deprimens*: and this inferior or resulting column is commensurate also in its diameter and circumference to the lower Marble, or brazen Hemisphere, and thrusts that as vigorously up to the upper Marble, as the upper column presseth downward. And so the *potentia sustinens* being equal to the

254 **O**bservations touching the  
the *pondus deprimens*, the lower Marble  
is able to sustain a weight equal to  
the weight of the upper atmospherical  
Cylinder; the reason of which admi-  
rable power (according to their Suppo-  
sition) is opened *supra cap. 5.*

3. And in as much as there runs  
down as weighty and potent aerial Cy-  
linders or Atmospherical portions by  
the sides, as well as perpendicularly,  
therefore although the Marbles were  
not placed parallel to the Horizon, but  
vertically (as when each is drawn sever-  
al ways) this lateral pressure of the At-  
mosphere is as effectual to hold the  
Marbles together in that close posture,  
as if they stood parallel to the Horizon.

4. And because they will have a  
Salve for all Sores, although these En-  
gins be placed in a close Glass-Receiver,  
whereby the aerial Columns, as well  
superior as inferior, are wholly inter-  
cepted by the interposition of the great  
Glass Receiver, the Elasticity of the  
portion of Air included within that  
Glass Receiver, undertakes and effectually  
performs the *phenomenon*, by its vi-  
gorous

gorous Elasticity or counterpression both upward, and downward, and laterally, upon the included Marbles or Hemispheres.

And this is the Solution that now obtains among the *Virtuosi*.

And upon these premises there are admirable trains of Philosophical Consequences deduced with great industry and subtlety, in this particular instance of the Marbles, which a man may read at large in the late book of *Hydrostatical Experiments*, *Exp.* 13, and elsewhere.

And now for ought I know the matter is brought to this issue, whether this or the former Solution be the truer, (for I know not a third) and if this prove untrue or uneffectual, the former of the Vulgar Philosophy must obtain, 'till some third be found out.

And therefore I will proceed in the examination of this new *Hypothesis*.

And although I think I have said enough against this whole Scheme of the Gravitation and Elatery of the Air, as it is propounded in the fourth, tenth, and eleventh Chapters; yet I shall here add  
some



256 **O**bservations touching the

some things more specifically applicable to these Engines and Experiments, and remit the Reader to those Chapters, as to the general untruth of the entire *hypothesis*.

First therefore, as to the cohesion of the Marbles I offer these considerations:

1. It is plain, that the lower Marble, if there were nothing else to sustain it but the recoiling Cylinder of Air impelling it upward, it would certainly fall to the Earth, notwithstanding that imaginary *potentia*; for if it were otherwise, it would be a necessary consequence, that though it were not contiguous to the upper, it would be sustained by that *potentia sustinens*, and so we should have Millstones floating in the Air, according to the fancy of the last mentioned Author of Hydrostatical Experiments.

But the help for this is, that in that instance the impending superior column of Air being of equal strength with the recoiling column of Air, there is an *aequipondium* between that *pondus* and *potentia*, and so the solute Marble or Millstone

stone, having the advantage of his own weight, and the weight of the superior column would conquer the inferior; but here the inferior Marble is protected from the weight of the superior column of Air, and so hath nothing but his own weight to contend with the inferior column, and its *potentia*, which latter overmatcheth it, and so keeps it suspended.

But this will not cure the Sore; for suppose it were two pieces of Wood, or that the Marbles were not excellently polished, so that they did not *contingere in puncto*, but some little fissure or *interstitia* did let in any small portion of Air, the Marble would fall off; and yet there the lower Marble is protected from the impendent column of Air by the superior piece of Wood, or unpolished Marble as well as here.

And to say these little filaments of interposed Air, which if all put together would not make a column of Air of a larger diameter than a small pin, should conquer the reflected Cylinder of Air, and its *potentia*, which these Masters

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suppose to be equivalent in power to thirty, forty, nay one hundred pound weight, renders the whole Supposition it self to be but utterly improbable. Somewhat therefore else it is, that keeps the lower Marble suspended to the upper, and not the imaginary *potentia* of the reflected column of Air commensurate to the *area* of the inferior Marble.

2. If the lower Marble were sustained upon the account of the *potentia sustinens* of the inferior column of Air, and by force thereof it could sustain (for instance) forty pounds weight, suspended in the center of the Marble, it were not easily conceptible how if but an eighth part of that weight were hanged near the limb or circumference of the lower Marble, it would fall asunder, as it will; for the *potentia sustinens* of the subjected column of Air is applied equally to all the *area* of the subjacent Marble. And the separation will follow, if the Marbles being oyled, the one may be slid off from the other without any difficulty; and then when they are so slid off, they are easily thereby severed, because



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these Masters suppose to press the Water at *A*, can be no larger than the orifice of the Pipe at *A*, which is not one fifth part of the amplitude of the rundle *B*, nor of the hole which it stops. But if there were such a reflected or recoiling column pressing upward to the hole of the vessel and rundle that covers it, which is five times larger than the orifice at *A*, to let in a column of gravitating Air; this rundle, and the Water incumbent upon it, should be forcibly thrust up by the recoiling column of Air: and yet Experience tells us, that it is so far from being thrust up by the *potentia sustinens* of the inferior aery column, that it is hardly to be raised without difficulty by a Thrid.

4. Again, take a vessel of Laton, of a cubical or cylindrical figure, about eight Inches diameter; make a round hole at the bottom of four Inches diameter. Then take a round piece of Brass or Lead, or smoothed Wood, of six Inches diameter, which may weigh two Ounces; wax it well, and exactly, and closely cover the hole, that it may overlap,

lap, that no Air may go in or out by it, then rarifie the included Air, but not to any considerable height, for then growing cold it will draw up the cover when closed. Then close the top very close with Laton and Soder, that no Air can get in; the Air I suppose rarified may take up more room than its natural dimension by about two square Inches, which is more than the dimension of the Stopper: so that the supposed Elatery of the Air hath no resistance to its impelling upward, because it hath room for its reception. I say that this Stopper will not be impelled up by the pressure of the recoiling Cylinder of Air, though it weigh but two Ounces, and will be lifted up by a force or weight of three Ounces. And yet according to these mens Supposition, this recoiling column hath a *potentia* to impell or keep up forty pound, nay an hundred pound weight, being commensurate in power to an Atmospherical Cylinder of six Inches diameter, which according to their Supposition must weigh about 500l weight, namely a Cylinder of



Mercury of six Inches diameter, and twenty nine Inches high, viz. 783 square Inches of Mercury, which is near 500l weight. It is true I have not tryed this, but my observation of the third Experiment makes me little doubt of this.

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**CHAP. XVIII.**

*Concerning the Magdeburgh Hemispheres, and their Cohesion, and the reason thereof.*

**T**HE Air is capable of tension by force, and of rarification by heat, both which agree in this, that they both give a large expansion of a less portion of Air into a greater space than is natural to it.

But herein they partly differ, and partly agree; that the immediate effect of a strong tension of Air by force (such as are the Air-pump, and the *Magdeburgh* Engin, and the *Cacabus Evacuatorius* described by *Shottus* in his *Technica curiosa*, lib. 1. cap. 5. & *sequentibus*) is attraction of the Superficies, to which the included tensed Air is contiguous.

But the immediate effect of rarification  
of

of the Air, which is performed by heat, is a laxation of the filaments of the Air at first; for the Air being dilated, takes up more room, is more relaxed and expanded: but consequentially there follows a contraction as the heat decays, and the Air endeavours its restitution to its natural texture, and so endeavours its contraction, and consequently lays hold on the contingent Superficies, within which it is imprisoned, and attracts it with its own contraction. The instances of both which motions and effects we have in the *Magdeburgh Hemispheres* described by *Shottus, ubi supra*, and hereafter more fully explicated.

*Fig. 18, 19, 20.* The Engin is thus described. Let there be two Brazen concave Hemispheres *AB*, with rings in the Poles or center of the convex Superficies of each of them at *C* and *D*, and a ring of Leather dipt in Wax to be placed between the two Hemispheres, *viz. E*, to keep the limbs or joints of them close from admission of any Air between the commissures or joints of the Hemispheres; and a Stop-cock in the lower

Hemisphere at  $FK$ , both the Hemispheres conjoined with the Leather between them. These Hemispheres thus joined, the Stop-cock at  $F$  to be left open, whereby in the *Cacabus Evacuathius* or *Magdeburgh Engin*, the Air in the cavity of the Hemispheres may be as much exhausted as may be, and consequently that which remains being thereby put into a great tension, to be inclosed by turning the Stop-cock, that no foreign Air may be admitted. These Hemispheres thus ordered, will cohere so strongly together, that the strength of many Horses will not sever them, if the Hemispheres be large.

And the event is infallibly true, but the contest is touching the reason or Solution of the *phenomena*.

The modern Philosophers, with *Schottus* in his fourth Book of his *Technica curiosa*, cap. 7. §. 3. (being now a Convert to the Gravitation of the Air) tells us, that the reason hereof is, that the weight of a column of Air impendent upon the upper Hemisphere, and the reverse column of Air pressing upon the



the lower Hemisphere upward, is the cause of this cohesion.

And that in case the Hemispheres be not placed erect, but laterally, with their Poles parallel to the Horizon, the lateral pressure of the two adverse columns of Air perform the business, and keep them strictly together against a most powerful force endeavouring their separation.

But still with this caution, that the separating force work upon the centre of the Hemispheres, and so draw upon all parts alike: for if the *potentia separans* be applied unequally, viz. at one side of each Hemisphere, and not equally from the centre, then the separation will easily follow upon the application of a small separating strength, which is also most certainly true. Again, if but a little portion of Air be let into the Stop-cock, the separation of them quickly follows, which is also true.

But now the vulgar Speculators think, that this Solution is untrue, and that the true reason of the cohesion of these Hemispheres is, because that the included

included portion of Air is not wholly exhausted, neither is it possible by humane power wholly to evacuate it. But a great part therereof is exhausted, and that which remains inclosed is under a very great and violent tension, and hath a strong natural *conatus* of restitution to its natural staple and standard, and that the filaments of the Air lay hold upon every point of the concave Superficies, and draw them inward, as it endeavours its own contraction.

That there is not, nor can be, any *casua* or interval of empty space between the convex Superficies of the included Air, and the concave Superficies of the including Hemispheres, for that is contrary to the common law of Nature; and yet the Air by its intrinsic texture, and proper motion of restitution, to that just dimension that Nature hath assigned to it, affects its own contraction to its own state, and with it draws together, and holds together the ambient body including it.

Not much unlike the tension of Lute-strings, highly wound up by their Pins, which

which have a tension and contraction of the extremes, to which they are fastened, namely the Bridg and the Pins.

That the reason why, if any Air be let in, even at a Pin-hole through the Hemispheres, it is greedily sucked in by the tensed and stretched Air, to relieve it from the Rack upon which it is stretched, and being taken in it relieves that tension, looseneth its contraction, and takes off its forcible attraction upon the concave Superficies of the including Hemispheres, and gives the included Air a fair relaxation to its due size, staple, and standard; and so the cohesion ceaseth.

*Fig. 21.* That the reason why an aperture is easily wrought, when the divulsion is only of one side, is partly the same with the reason of the like divulsion of the the two cohering Marbles.  
 1. Because the aperture is angular, and not all at once. 2. The aperture is *cuneiformis*, which every body knows is more forcible than a parallel aperture. And 3. by this kind of angular opening the filaments of the Air are broken successively



cessively one after another; but in a parallel aperture all the filaments must be broken at once, and so make one common resistance to the force. As a piece of Cloth may be torn with ease by one man, when thrid is broken after thrid, but cannot be torn by four men, when all the thrids are strained together, and so have an united and uniform strength and resistance.

And they say, that although this Engine is contrived with great pomp, yet in truth it is no more than that Experiment, which we practised with our Nutshels when we were children, where by clapping half a Nutshel to our lips, or the back of our hands, and sucking out the Air, they would stick so close, that we could not easily fillip them off.

These are the two reasons that contend for the Solution of this Experiment, the Gravitation of the Air or Atmosphere of the one hand, and the *motus* or *conatus restitutionis* of the Air, and the natural inseparability of Bodies without any intervening Body of the other

other hand. If the former be laid aside as untrue, the latter needs no great labour to prove it; for these be the only two Competitors for the Solution of this Instance, that I ever heard of.

And I think it is very plain, that the imaginary gravitation of the Air, neither hath nor can have any thing at all to do in this business.

And because I had not those Evacuatory Engins before described, and if I had had them, yet I would not have singly rested upon them, without making trial by rarification by heat, I took the method hereafter following, for the full examination of this Instance.

For it is obvious beyond dispute, that that if there be a cohesion wrought after rarification of the Air by heat, in the Instances hereafter given, as there is when there is a tension of the Air by a forcible Evacuation, as in the former Instance; the true cause of each cohesion must be one and the same. And if the *pondus externi aeris* contribute nothing to the cohesion of the Hemispheres after rarification of the included Air

270 **Observations touching the**

Air by heat, it contributes as little to the cohesion of the Hemispheres forcibly evacuated by an Air-pump, or the *Cacabus Evacuatorius* before mentioned.

And on the other side, if the cohesion of the Hemispheres after rarification by heat be caused by the *motus restitutionis* of the included rarified Air, and by the strict continuity (as I may call it) of the filaments of the Air to the cavity of the Hemispheres, to avoid that Vacuity which would otherwise happen by the contraction of the Air into a less room than would fill the whole cavity; the same is unquestionably the reason of the cohesion of the Hemispheres forcibly evacuated as above.

The Instances therefore that I tryed are these that follow, which I shall mention severally, with my observation to each of them. For if I mistake not, this one Experiment, duly improved, wholly sets aside the imaginary Gravitation of the Air, so usually applied to the Solution of the *Torricellian* Experiment, the cohesion of Marbles, the raising of Water in Pumps, and

by



by Suction, and many more of like nature.

First, I caused two Brass concave Hemispheres to be cast, each of six Inches and a quarter in the cavity, and about seven Inches diameter in the convexity, exactly closing one to another on their rim, and the lower let up into the cavity of the upper about half an Inch, for their more exact closure; and the outward rims of each about a quarter of an Inch in breadth, exactly closing one upon another, so that being closed they made one perfect Sphere, according to the form of the *Magdeburgh* Hemispheres above described.

The lower Hemisphere weighed six pounds, seven Ounces, and a half, *viz.* 103 Ounces, and half; the upper weighed only six pounds.

I then took a circular piece of Calf-skin, a little above half an Inch broad, and in length sufficient to compass the Hemispheres, and dipping it in melted Bees-Wax, with a very little Rosin, so that it might just lye between the commissures of the two Hemispheres, and stop

272 **Observations touching the**  
stop out all access of the forreign Air between them.

First therefore, without any thing more done, I applied the two Hemispheres each to other, with the interposed girdle of waxed wet Leather, and pressed them close and hard together, that no commerce might be between the included and the common Air.

And so there neither was nor could be any force of compression used to the included Air, because 'till the closure of the Hemispheres it had a free intercourse with the external Air, and when perfectly closed it was but just as much as the Hemispheres would freely contain, and consequently of the same texture with the forreign Air.

In this Instance, the upper Hemisphere raised gently by the ring, there seemed a little weak cohesion between them, because the rims were perfectly closed, and the separation was altogether in the same moment, but the cohesion so faint and weak, that it would not sustain the hundredth part of the weight of the lower Hemisphere, and scarce perceptible. And

And the reason of the disparity between the cohesion of these Hemispheres, and that before mentioned of the 2 polished Marbles, are these. 1. Because the contiguity of the two polished Marbles is in all points of their Superficies, but here the contiguity of the rims of the Hemispheres was but in a circle of a quarter of an Inch broad, and so the forreign Air had a shorter journey to go in the moment of the separation of the Hemispheres, than in the moment of the separation of the polished Marbles. 2. Because the contiguity of the polished Marbles is without any interposition of Leather, which possibly would impede the firmness of the cohesion of the two Marbles themselves.

But now if the pressure of the aerial Cylinders either in the polished Marbles, or in the instances of the Hemispheres, before and hereafter given, were the cause of their cohesion, what imaginable reason can be given why these two Hemispheres should not cohere as firmly in this Instance:

T For



For though there be Air included between the two Hemispheres, yet all communication between the included and forreign Air is perfectly excluded by walls of Brass, and the impervious Leather girdle.

If it be said, that the Elasticity of the included Air resists the compression by the forreign Air, and so impedes the cohesion.

I say if any such Elasticity were admitted in the Air, (which I do not) yet most certainly the included Air hath no greater Elasticity than the common Air, whereof it was but just now a portion, and hath received no more compression by the juncture of the Hemispheres, no more than Air in a Bottle covered with a flat Board or Paper.

The consequence whereof is, that the Elasticity of the forreign Air is as strong as the Elasticity of the included Air, and must needs keep it in *aequilibrio*. And the consequence thereof is, that if the *pondus externi aeris* (if it were any way considerable) would have its free exercise upon these Hemispheres, though filled with

with Air; for according to these Masters supposition, the Cylinder of Air of each side pressing each Hemisphere, is above seven hundred pound weight, which it may freely exercise, the imaginary Elasticity of the included and foreign Air being *ex suppositione* equal. But the ensuing Experiments will render this more evident.

Secondly therefore, I took a handful of flax, and leaving the mouth of the lower Hemisphere upward, I put in the flax, and gave fire to it, holding the upper Hemisphere close over it, whereby the Air in both was greatly rarified, and a considerable portion of the space taken up by the flame of the flax. Then clapping the upper Hemisphere upon the lower, with the interposed Leather girdle, I pressed them together with all the strength I had, neither were they possibly capable of a neerer or closer contiguity to the interposed Leather, though the imaginary Cylinder of the Atmosphere had pressed them, and hereupon the flame and fire was presently extinguished.

The Events were as followeth.

1. There grew a present cohesion of the two Hemispheres together, even while they were hot, and the included Air under a high degree of rarification by the heat, and so could not have any considerable tension while the heat continued.

And the reason of this cohesion was plainly this. That the fire and flame had not only rarified the Air included within the compass of the Hemispheres, to an expansion far greater than was natural to it; but also the flame and fire took up a considerable portion of the space between the Hemispheres, which being extinct in the moment of their juncture, that very rarified Air that was within, was forced to take up so much more space as the flame took up before its extinction. And from thence grew necessarily an attraction upon the cavity of the Hemispheres, though that very Air was under a rarification by the continuing heat.

2. But this cohesion was but weak, because the Air was then under a strong



strong dilatation by the continuing heat, and therefore the upper Hemisphere lifted up by the ring, would not sustain the weight of the lower Hemisphere.

3. But when the Hemispheres thus heated, and the included Air greatly rarified thereby, were permitted to continue together closed 'till they were perfectly cold, and thereby the Air had opportunity to contract it self, or at least to endeavour it as much as it could. Now the cohesion of the Hemispheres grew strong, so that the upper lifted up would raise the lower in conjunction with it, with the addition of some weight appended to the lower ring. And the reason was, because the heat which was the cause of the great dilatation of the included Air was now ceased, and the Air by its motion of restitution endeavoured to contract it self to its natural Expansion.

And because the included Air (it may be) was expanded to above four times its true natural size and dimension, and now endeavoured to contract it self  
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into that space, but could not attain it, unless three fourths of the space included within the Hemispheres should have been left perfectly empty, the Air endeavouring its contraction, according to the particular inclination of its own motion; yet by the common law of the Universe was kept under its former Expansion, to prevent the *casua* between the Air and the concave Superficies of the Hemispheres, and so as much as was possible attracted upon them, and kept them together, no foreign Air being admissible for the relief of the included Air, to help to restore it to its due size and texture: as a living Oyster contracts its shell together by its own contraction within its shell, when a person is opening it. The comparison is homely, and suits not in all things, because the Oyster is a vital Being, but yet it serves to explicate the method of this attraction, by the filaments of the Air upon the contiguous concave Superficies.

And from this instance of fired flax (resembling very much the common instance

instance of Cupping-glasses,) it appears plainly, that in those Glasses the flesh is not driven up by pressure of the foreign Air upon the glass or the contiguous parts of the flesh; but purely by the attraction of the included residue of Air upon the extinction of the flame. For the Hemispheres were at first pressed together as close as they could be, and no man can imagine that the external Air can have any influence through these Brazen Walls, that are neer half an Inch thick, where yet the Attraction upon the included Superficies is visible and apparent; and in this and my other Experiments it was not possible for the Hemispheres to receive a greater or closer contiguity than I gave them on their first union: and therefore I do not wonder, that *Schottus*, though too hastily subscribing to the pressure of the Air, as a Solution of some Experiments, yet in his *Technica Curiosa*, l. 4. cap. 12. § 1. is forced to confess *carnem & sanguinem subintrare cucurbitas, nec pressione Aeris externi carni circum illas incumbenti, nec pressione aeris illas incumbentis & depri-*



280 Observations touching the

*primentis, ac intra carnem mergentis, sed  
suctione & attractione.*

3. Because I would improve the Experiment to the uttermost, I made a tryal with a stronger heat. I therefore put burning Coals and red hot Iron into each Hemisphere, 'till they were hot as I could well touch them, and then casting out the Coals, the Air within the cavity of each Hemisphere was highly rarified; then clapping the Leather girdle about the rim I closed the Hemispheres very close, as my strength could force them together; the Events whereof were these:

1. While the Hemispheres were hot, and so the included Air under a high degree of rarification, there was very little or no cohesion, for the Air was under the same laxation as at first; and therefore they would presently fall asunder, the upper being raised by the ring.

2. As the heat decayed, and the Hemispheres grew gradually colder and colder, and consequently the Air more and more endeavours to contract it self, and

as a consequence thereof attracted more forcibly upon the cavity of the Hemispheres, the stronger was there cohesion; because as the Air grew colder, it endeavoured more and more to acquire its just natural dimension and texture.

3. At last, when the heat was quite extinct, and the Hemispheres grown perfectly cold, the cohesion was so strong, that the upper Hemisphere suspended upon a hook, did not only sustain the lower Hemisphere, which weighed neer seven pounds, but also a weight of twenty eight pounds more, in all about thirty five pound weight, before they would be disjoyned.

For now the Air being discharged of that heat that kept it laxe, and without a bent, or tension, or contraction inward, did now endeavour its contraction strongly, and therewith pulled inward the Hemispheres, from which it could not be severed, by reason of common Natures declination of a Vacuity.

4. My fourth Tryal was this, that when

when the Hemispheres were first heated, and clapt together, and thereby when they became cold, cohered exceedingly strongly; yet when they were under that strong cohesion, that they would sustain a considerable weight as before, without parting asunder, yet if afterwards they were brought but to a moderate heat, either by a chafing-dish of Coals put under them, or by holding them neer the fire, they would suddenly fall asunder of themselves, without any weight appended to sever them.

The reason whereof is apparent, namely that by the heating of the Hemispheres the included Air is again expanded, and its tension laxed, and the filaments thereof which were before under a tension and contraction by the Air, striving to gain its natural temperament, are now let loose, as a Lute-string is let down by the unscrewing of the Pins. And consequently the suction and attraction of the Air upon the concave Superficies of the Hemispheres, which before held them together, is relaxed and discharged.

And



*Torricellian Experiment.* 283

And thus we have the true *phenomena* of this Engin, and, as I take it the true reason and solution of them.

And upon these Instances I do conclude,

1. That men have had very little reason to conclude the Gravitation or Pressure of the Air upon the inferior World, or the parts thereof; for the cohesion of these Engins is most plainly upon another reason, as appears by what is before declared.

2. That this instance is so far from concluding the Gravitation of the Air in that measure, that the late Masters contend, that plainly that Supposition neither hath nor can have to do in the solution of these Instances.

For most unquestionably, the Air doth as much gravitate (if at all) upon the Hemispheres, when the included Air is rarified by heat, in these Instances, as it doth when the Hemispheres are grown cold; and yet in the former case there is no cohesion, but contrariwise a separation of the cohering Hemispheres if again they are heated.

3. That

3. That the cause of the cohesion therefore is not *ab extra*, or *de foris*, but *ab intra*; namely, one specifical to the Air, whereby becoming cold after a great expansion by heat, it endeavours its contraction to its due space and texture, by a motion of restitution; the other common to all parts of the Universe, that common law of Nature that preserves contiguity, or indeed rather continuity of the parts of the Universe: and therefore suffers not the Air to contract it self, so as to leave an empty space between it self and the concave of the Hemispheres, whereby it comes to pass; that the Air endeavouring to contract it self, layes hold upon, and endeavours to contract and hold together all parts whereunto it is contiguous, when no access of forreign Air is admitted.

4. That the least admission of forreign Air, though through a Pin-hole, in the Hemispheres, gradually gives a relaxation of the tension of the included Air; which greedily sucks it in, and thereby is delivered gradually from its tension, and lets go its hold of the contiguous

guous Superficies, which is the natural and necessary effect of that tension.

I cannot easily perceive how these Conclusions against the imaginary Gravitation of the Air can be evaded.

If it should be said, that the reason why the Hemispheres cohere not when they are hot, is, because the convexity likewise of the Hemispheres are also hot, and so retund the Gravitation or Pressure of the Air upon them by their heat, which is not so done when they are cold.

I answer 1. That though the convex Superficies were admitted to be as hot as could be indured, yet the Sphere of that Activity is not two foot in circumference, which could never break the pressure of a column of Air of at least seven Miles high, and near a thousand pound weight, according to the Supposition. 2. Neither is the heat required to make such a disjunction of that Extremity, as to make any such impression upon the Air; for if the Hemispheres be made but bloud warm after their cohesion, they will fall asunder. 3. But



3. But wholly to prevent this imagination, if the Hemispheres be cased over with a flat or spherical Cover of Wood, Lead, or Brass, which may receive the supposed Gravitation of the Air, yet the cohesion, while the air is hot within, will not last; for it is the laxation or relaxation of the tension of the Air within that, gives the separation, or easie separability of the Hemispheres.

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## CHAP. XIX.

*Concerning the raising of the water by  
Pumps or Syringes, and the Cause thereof.*

**I**N the two former Chapters I have considered the cohesion of polished Marbles, and the *Magdeburgh* Hemispheres, both in truth resting upon Solutions somewhat of the same nature. And therein I have as I think excluded the Gravitation of the Air, or Atmosphere, or aerial Cylinders, from any contribution thereunto.

I have chosen in this Chapter to consider

*Torricellian Experiment.* 287

sider the Elevation of Water in Pumps and Syringes, both which are in truth but the same Engin, though circumstantially varied.

And although I shall herein have occasion to say something touching the Gravitation of the Air, and shall in some measure evidence, that the Water is not raised in these Engins by the weight of the Air, pressing upon the restagnant Well or other vessel of Water, yet I shall not labour that, much, in this disquisition, because enough hath been said thereof before.

But my principal scope herein is to discover, even to sense, that there is no such Elasticity in a separate portion of common Air as the Elaterists suppose, whereby to salve the suspension of a column of twenty nine Inches of Mercury in the *Torricellian* Experiment, when the same is pent up in a close vessel or room, every where excluding the imaginary pressure of the Atmospheric Cylinder; and consequently that the Solution of that Experiment, either by the Weight or by the Spring of the  
Air,

Air, is a mistaken Solution, and hath no reality in it.

The raising of Water by common Pumps or Syringes (especially as it is this day ordered, sometimes with double, sometimes with single Valves, to hinder the regrefs of the Water) is so well known even to ordinary Plummers, that it needs no accurate description.

But the reason of this Elevation of the Water is variously rendred, according to the different *hypotheses* that men have entertained,

The ancient and common, and I think the true reason thereof, is this:

The lower end of the cavity of the Pump or Syringe being immersed below the Superficies of the restagnant Water, there is a Cylinder of Air in the cavity of the Pump or Syringe, between the Superficies of the Water and the bottom of the Bucket and upper Valve of the Pump, or between the Superficies of the Water, and the bottom of the *Embolus* of the Syringe closely penned up.

That by the Elevation of the Bucket  
in



in the Pump, or *Embolus* in the Syringe, that portion of intermediate Air is under a tension, and draws vigorously upon the Superficies of the restagnant Water, and that again upon the contiguous Water, and so the tensed *funiculus* of the Air raiseth a *funiculus* of Water, commensurate to the cavity of the Pump or Cylinder, which again by depression of the Bucket riseth through the Leather-valve that covers it, and by an iterated elevation of the Bucket or *Embolus* draws up more, whereby there is a continued supply of a *funiculus aqueus*, which is finally thrown out at the orifice, or nose of the Pump.

That it is a certain truth, that Water is raised either by a *pondus* or pressure, that is equivalent to the weight of the Water that is elevated, as in the Engins where Forcers or pressures are used to raise Water; or else by an attractive *potentia* equal to the weight of the Water drawn up, as in Pumps and Syringes.

That consequently, the *vis* or *potentia* *suctoria* or *attractiva*, will raise such a weight

weight of Water as is less than this *vis* or *potentia*, (for whether the Elevation of Water be by a *vis deprimens* as in pressing Engins, or *vis suctoria* or *attractiva* as in Pumps or Syringes, or the preponderation of the *potentia* to the weight of the Water) thus it sustains, impels, or attracts, and therefore they are all reducible to the reason of the *libra* or Ballance.

And on the other side, if the weight of the Water exceed the *pondus* or *potentia* which must raise it, it cannot either draw, or impell, or keep it up beyond an *aquilibrium* with that *pondus* or *potentia impellens* or *attrahens*.

And therefore if there be an excessive distance between the Superficies of the restagnant Water, and the bottom of the *Embolus* or Bucket, suppose it 50 or 60 foot of perpendicular height, whereby the *potentia attractiva* is overmatched with a *pondus* of Water more than its strength, it will not raise it to a due height. For still as I said, where any weighty body is raised out of its place, it must be by a greater weight, or

at

*Torricellian Experiment.* 291

at left by a *potentia*, exceeding that weight of the Body to be raised.

But the modern Philosophy tells us, that the raising of the Water in the Pump or Syringe, is not by a *vis attractiva* or *suctoria* of the Bucket or *Embolus*; but that it is forced up by the weight of a Cylinder of Air, commensurate to the cavity of the Pump or Syringe.

And that the Elevation of the Pump or *Embolus* of the Syringe, attenuating the Air inclosed in the cavity of the Pump or Syringe, and thereby disabled by its laxity to resist the pressure of the external Cylinder of atmospherical Air, the Water is driven up into the cavity of the Pump or Syringe.

And because a Cylinder of Mercury of twenty nine Inches and half, is by them supposed to be of equal weight to the Cylinder of Air of like diameter, reaching from the top of the Atmosphere unto the vessel of restagnant Mercury in the *Torricellian Experiment*, and a Cylinder of *Mercury* of twenty nine Inches and half high, countervails in weight a Cylinder of Water of like



292 Observations touching the  
diameter of about thirty three foot high,  
and consequently a Cylinder of the At-  
mosphere counterpoiseth a Cylinder of  
Water of about thirty three foot high,  
therefore the Water in a Pump will be  
raised but just to that height, viz. near  
thirty three foot, and no higher, because  
such a column or Cylinder of Water is  
counterpoised by an Atmospherical  
Cylinder of like diameter. Thus I  
think it is rendred by *Schottus* in his  
*Technica Curiosa*, l. 4. cap. 8. §. 4. and by the  
Excellent Author of *Hydrostatical Para-*  
*doxes*, n. 5. and by other learned men of  
this latter age.

But under their favour I think this is  
not the true Solution of the instance in  
hand, but the first is the true Solution  
thereof.

If the elevation of the Water in the  
Pump may be more considerably higher  
than 33 foot, certainly this latter  
Solution cannot serve. And though  
this possibly hath not been fully tryed,  
and requires exact Engins to effect the  
Tryal to the uttermost; yet there are  
many that do experimentally affirm,  
that

that a Pump or Syringe well ordered will raise Water above forty foot perpendicular height; and if so, the counterpoise of the aerial Cylinder will not do the business. But this I have not tried, I will therefore apply my self to what I have tried.

Fig. 22. I took therefore a great and strong globular glass Bottle, *ABC*, holding five Quarts of Water, of about nine Inches Diameter, with a double orifice, viz. one at *A*, wherein to fasten my Pump hereafter described, another at *B*, to let in or pour out Water, to leave open or close, as I saw cause.

In *A* the neck of the Bottle I fastned a Laton Pump or Syringe, of about an Inch and a half diameter, marked *D*, with a small Pipe about half an Inch diameter, reaching neer the bottom of the Glass, viz. *E*; an *Embolus* at *G* reaching down neer *H*, and a little crooked Pipe at *H* to drive out the Water by the depression of the *Embolus*.

This Pump was fastned and strongly luted in the neck of the Glass with a double Valve, one about *A* to receive the

294 **O**bservations touching the  
Water into the Pump, and to sustain  
it from returning, by depressing the  
*Embolus*, another at *K* the top of the  
orifice, to keep the Air from entring  
upon raising the *Embolus*.

So that now the Bottle was the Well,  
which I filled up with Water.

Therefore leaving open the orifice at  
*B*, whereby the Air had free access into  
the Bottle, by lifting up and depressing  
the *Embolus G* the Water was freely and  
easily without any difficulty drawn  
out at the orifice *K*, through the Valve  
there placed, and so I emptied half the  
Bottle of Water, namely to *I* the supe-  
rior half, being full of free uncompress-  
ed and common Air, and the lower  
half at *I* being full of Water.

The Pump being in this posture, I  
took a short piece of Cork, first boyled  
and then dipt in melted Bees-wax and  
Rosin with it, I closely luted up the ori-  
fice at *B*, so that no air could possibly en-  
ter. And then I lifted up and depressed  
the *Embolus* several times, so long 'till I  
could see the whole success of this Tryal.

First, the *Embolus* was raised, but not  
with



with equal facility, as it was done when the orifice *B* was open.

The reason whereof is, because every elevation of the *Embolus* gave a violent tension to the Air in the superior cavity of the Glass, which upon every portion of Water drawn up must necessarily be expanded into a larger space to supply the space left by the raised Water. So that the expansion of the Air was not natural, or of its own accord, but by a violent attraction wrought upon it, and tension of it.

Secondly, yet notwithstanding the exclusion of the Air, I did freely pump out above a quart of Water, whereby the Water subsided an Inch and a half below *I*, and consequently the Air expanded and dilated to so much more space than it had before, viz. whereas the superior cavity of the Glass held by the Air was two quarts and half, now it took up the room of three quarts and half, and somewhat more.

So that here was a quart of Water raised up by the suction of the *Embolus*, and yet no possible Gravitation of that

imaginary atmospherical column to press or drive it up; so that surely the ascent of the Water in the Pump is not by the Ballance, *equipondium*, or preponderation of a column of the Atmosphere to the column of Water raised in the cavity of the Pump, for here was no access for any such column: whether the imaginary Elasticity of the included portion of Air may be called in to help the matter, we shall see hereafter.

Thirdly, but when I had raised up this quart of Water, and emptied it much out of my Bottle, all my iterated tractions and trussions of my *Embolus* could raise not one drop more.

But all that was done by these repeated motions, was only the rarifying of the Air included in the Pump, when the *Embolus* was lifted up, and condensing it again as the *Embolus* was depressed, but no Water raised.

Now in this instance, the reason why a quart of water was raised, though the orifice at *B* were stopped, was because the *potentia suctoria* or *attractiva* of

of the Pump was strong enough to give a dilatation of the Air to a greater space by a quart than it had before.

And the reason why it could raise no more, is this, namely, in as much as every portion of Water raised out of the vessel, must of necessity leave a space devoid of so much Water as is so raised up, and that derelicted space must either be wholly vacant of any Body, which by the universal law of the Universe is prohibited, or else the Air must expand it self to fill it. And in as much as the Air having undergone as great an Expansion already (by the evacuation of the first quart of Water) as this *potentia* or *vis attractiva* was able to effect. The included Air thus expanded resisteth any further expansion with an equal strength to the attractive power of the Pump, and so renders it *conamen irritum*, to give it a larger expansion, and consequently no more Water is raised.

But if a greater strength were applied, strong enough to master that resistance, as if the Pump were longer, that it might



298 **Observations touching the**

might give a stronger suction, that might overmatch the resistance of the included Air against a higher degree of tension; yea or if the superior Air, after this quart of Water was evacuated, had a strong external heat applied to it, whereby it might be capable of a larger expansion, the Water (while the Air was under this forcible expansion) would be as easily raised by the Pump as at first. But this I durst not try, for fear of breaking my Glass, or unluting of it.

Upon this consideration and tryal it is manifest,

First, that the Gravitation or pressure of the external Air is not the cause of raising the Water in the Pump; for here it is raised where there is no Gravitation, the orifice at *B* being perfectly stoppt.

Secondly, that the common Air hath no such Elasticity, as the modern Philosophy assigns to it; for here a portion of Air included in the Glass is of the same texture with the common Air, and a portion of it, and yet evidently there is

is no such Elasticity in it as is supposed.

And this appears, 1. because it is not expanded to one third part of greater space than it had before, without a force offered to it, as above is shewn. 2. When it is expanded to a third part of space more than it had, it is so far from a natural expansion of it self farther, that it resists the *attractiva potentia* of the Pump to give any larger expansion. And 3. if it had yet a natural expansive power without force or violence added to it, it would certainly drive up the rest of the Water that remains, especially when the Air in the Pump is rarified or extended by the elevation of the *Embolus*, and yet no Water follows it, in this instance, which yet it would do, if the Air had a continuing Spring or Elasticity to drive it up.

It is true, that naturally all the spaces of this lower World (at least) are and must be filled with some body or other: and as one body moves or is moved out of one space to another, some other body succeeds in that space that is so left, and fills it. And the fluid Bodies of Air and Water,

Water, or some fluid bodily substance, equivalent to either of them, are in respect of their fluidity fitted more than other solider Bodies, to supply and make good the *interstitia* of other Bodies; and if they be contiguous unto them, to slip into the spaces deserted by their motion into other spaces, and accordingly will do it, if they are not impeded by the resistance or interposition of other more stubborn and untractable Bodies. And by this means upon the successive motions of Bodies, there is maintained a successive and continual circulation in the motions, especially of those Bodies that are fluid, and so more ready and apt for motion.

In the Instance of my Pump, suppose that the orifice at *B* be left open, and the vessel or Bottle have a Gallon of Water in it, and there stands by it an empty vessel, suppose *M*, that contains a Gallon of Air: if I pump out a Gallon of Water out of the Pump into the vessel *M*, as the Pump is gradually emptied of the Gallon of Water into *M*, the Water leaves its place in the Pump, and takes  
up



up as much room in  $M$ , and the Air in  $M$  leaves as much space there, and takes it up in the Pump, to which it hath a free access; so that the two Elements change their stations, and while they hold their natural texture, hold the same extension of space, though not the same situation. And thus a circulation is naturally consequential upon the motion especially of fluid Bodies; and therefore when the Water leaves its place in the Pump, and dispossesseth the Air in the vessel  $M$ , and the dispossessed Air gradually succeeds into the space left by the Water, as fast as the Water leaves it, and takes up another room equal to what it had before, though in another *ubi*; here is no Gravitation of an Atmospheric column upon the orifice  $B$ , but only a natural motion and succession of the like portion of Air into the place relict by the Water, and a natural desertion of that space which it before had in the vessel  $M$ , which it cannot retain against the weightier and more prevalent Element of Water taking it up. So that it is neither a Gravitation

tation of the atmospherical Cylinder upon the orifice *B*, nor any great Elasticity of the Air that drives up the Water, but a natural circulation of the portion of Air into the space derelicted by the Water; and the immiſſion or innu-  
ation of the Air into that Cavity, is the Effect not the Cause of the recession of the Water.

And now to reduce all this long process to the thing I principally intended, we are told by the late Philosophy, that the suspension of the Mercury at twenty nine Inches height in the *Torricellian* Experiment, is caused by the counterpoise of the weight of an external atmospherical Column, commensurate in its crassitude and weight to the Mercurial Cylinder suspended in the Glass Tube.

And when it is replied, that the like suspension happens, if the Mercurial Engin be placed in a close room, yea or in a Glass every way closed, that admits not any such Mercurial column, but intercepts it and its pressure by its closure every way. We are again told, that that little portion of Air included with-  
in

*Torricellian Experiment.* 303.

in that room or Glass, hath so potent an Elasticity, that it will as effectually suspend the Mercury in the Tube, as that tall Atmospherical Cylinder of at least seven Miles long. This I say seems to me utterly incredible for these reasons:

1. The Air included in a close room or Glass, hath only the advantage of its imagined Elasticity, but not the advantage of the stupendous weight assigned by this New Philosophy to the external aerial Cylinder.

The external Air hath the same Elasticity attributed to it, as the Air included in the close room or Glass, and also the supposed advantage of the weight of the Cylinder of the Atmosphere besides.

If the bare Elasticity of inclosed Air be sufficient to suspend the Mercury at twenty nine Inches and half, within the room or Glass, the same Elasticity in the external Air, with the advantage of its weight, should suspend the Mercury to fifty nine Inches high, which was never yet done.

2. If the Elatery of the Air cannot drive

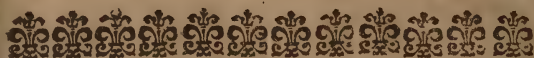


304 **O**bservations touching the  
drive up a successive portion of Water  
of half an Inch-diameter into my Pump,  
without the attraction of the *Embolus*;  
nor yet is that attraction also effectual to  
raise the Water, when it hath expanded  
the Air to about a fourth part of space  
more than is natural to it. It is impossi-  
ble that the Elasticity of the Air, inclu-  
ded in a close room or Glass Receiver,  
can drive and keep up a Cylinder of  
Mercury twenty nine Inches high,  
which yet according to the amplitude  
of its diameter may weigh, two, four, or  
ten pound.

I do therefore conclude upon the  
whole matter, that it seems to me, the  
new *hypothesis* of the Weight and Elasti-  
city of the Air, as it is delivered by the  
late Philosophy, is an Ingenuous Inven-  
tion, but wants Reality to support it  
self, or to give a right and true Solution  
to the *Phænomena* whereunto it is  
applied.

F I N I S.

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## THE CONTENTS.

---

### CHAP. I.

*The Introduction, containing the order of  
the ensuing Enquiries.* fol. I

### CHAP. II.

*The Explication of some Terms, that may  
be of use in the following Inquiry.* II

### CHAP. III.

*Concerning the Gravitation of Bodies ;  
and first, concerning the Gravitation of  
Fluids, in relation to Fluids of the same  
kind and consistence : And therein also,  
first of the Gravitation of water upon  
water.* 30

X CHAP.

## The Contents.

### CHAP. IV.

*Concerning the Gravitation of the Air upon  
Air, or any subjected Bodies in it.* 47

### CHAP. V.

*Concerning the Gravitation of heavier Flu-  
ids upon those that are lighter.* 88

### CHAP. VI.

*Concerning the Pressure or Gravitation of  
lighter Fluids, upon those that are spe-  
cifically heavier.* 93

### CHAP. VII.

*Concerning the Space derelicted by the de-  
scent of the Mercury in the Torricellian  
Experiment, and what it is not, or what  
it is that fills it.* 117

### CHAP. VIII.

*Concerning the Body supplying the derelicted  
Space*



## The Contents.

*Space in the top of the Tube, and first  
what it is not.* 122

### CHAP. IX.

*Concerning the other Supposition, namely,  
that this derelict Space is filled with  
a Body ab intra.* 131

### CHAP. X.

*The Enquiry touching the Cause that keeps  
the Mercury suspended in the Tube at  
twenty nine Inches, or thereabout; and  
first what is not the Cause of this Suspen-  
sion.* 147

### CHAP. XI.

*Concerning the supposition of the æquipon-  
dium of a pillar of the Air, or Atmo-  
sphere, as the Cause sustaining the Mer-  
curial Cylinder.* 152

### CHAP. XII.

*Touching the Elatery or Spring of the Air.* 178

X 2

CHAP.

## The Contents.

### C H A P. XIII.

*Certain Experiments, evincing that the common Air in its ordinary consistence, hath no, or no considerable Elasticity or Spring, without an accidental or preternatural Compression.* 195

### C H A P. XIV.

*The consideration of some Arguments for the weight and Elatery of the Air.* 201

### C H A P. XV.

*Concerning the true Cause of the suspension of the Mercury at twenty nine Inches and half, or thereabout, in the Torricellian Engin.* 215

### C H A P. XVI.

*Concerning the two Suppositions that are necessary to maintain this Solution, viz. Natures abhorrence of a vacuum, and the Attraction of tensible fluids, or other*

## The Contents.

*ther Bodies when under a tension. 236*

### C H A P. XVII.

*Concerning the Cause of the Cohesion of two  
polished Marbles.*

### C H A P. XVIII.

*Concerning the Magdeburgh Hemispheres,  
and their cohesion, and the reason thereof.*

262

### C H A P. XIX.

*Concerning the raising of the water by Pumps  
or Syringes.*

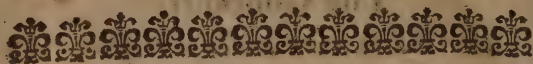
286

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